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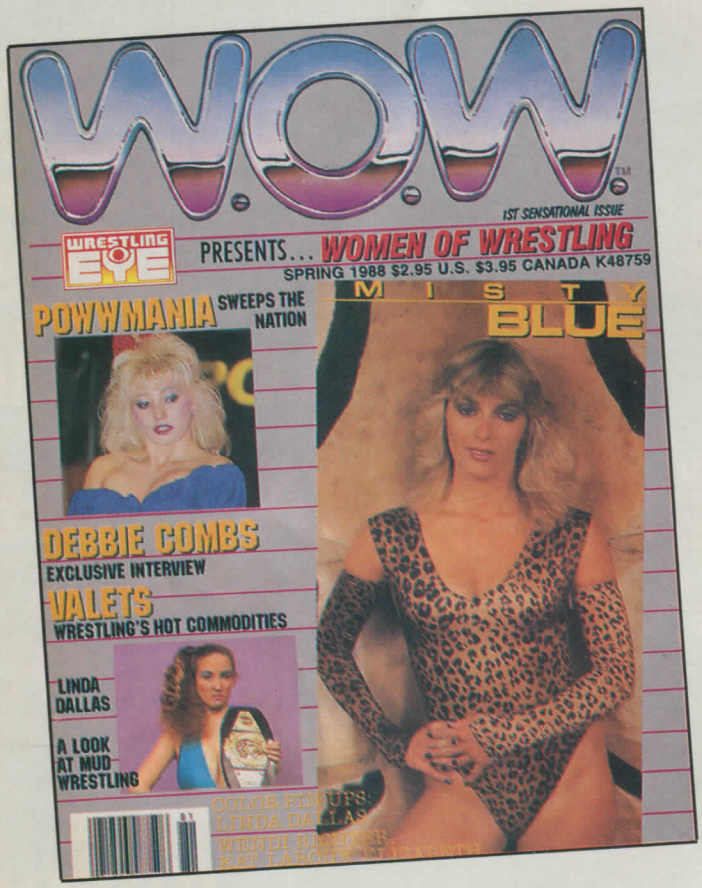

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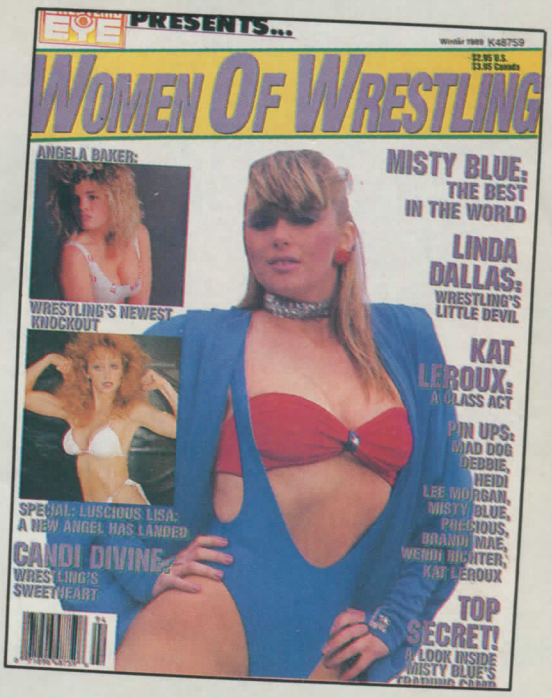

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CONTENTS

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FEATURES

HULK HOGAN: THE BIRTH AND REBIRTH OF A CHAMPION. . 6
RICKY STEAMBOAT: THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON. 12
CAN "THE BARBER" CUT UP "MR. PERFECT?". 16
DUSTY RHODES: PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE. 20
PAT TANAKA: A PROFILE IN COURAGE 24
EAST MEETS WEST IN KANSAS CITY. 28
CACTUS JACK MANSON: LUNATIC ON THE LOOSE. 33
THE FUNK BROTHERS: TERRY AND DORY RIDE AGAIN. . . . 45
CHIEF BOBBY BOLD EAGLE: DESERVING NOTORIETY 52
INDEPENDENT STARS GALLERY 62
WAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE! MANNY FERNANDEZ VS. WAHOO McDANIEL 66
SUE SEXTON: AUSTRALIA'S FAVORITE EXPORT. 74

PIN-UPS

CURT HENNIG VS. RANDY SAVAGE. 2
MICHAEL HAYES. 3
HULK HOGAN 4
JIM DUGGAN. 37
JIM CORNETTE. 38
BUSHWACKER BUTCH VS. ARN ANDERSON 39
RIC FLAIR 40–41
"WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE" THE BRITISH BULLDOGS TAKE ON THE ROCK 'N ROLL EXPRESS 42–44
GREG GAGNE 77
RICKY MORTON. 78
HEIDI LEE MORGAN 79
GREG VALENTINE. 80
AKEEM VS. BEEFCAKE. 81

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL: THE WWF, NO PRIDE. 5
WRESTLING EYE PIN UP: DORY FUNK JR 48
OFFICIAL RATINGS. 50
FAN CLUB COLUMN 56
PHANTOM OF THE RING 60
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 70

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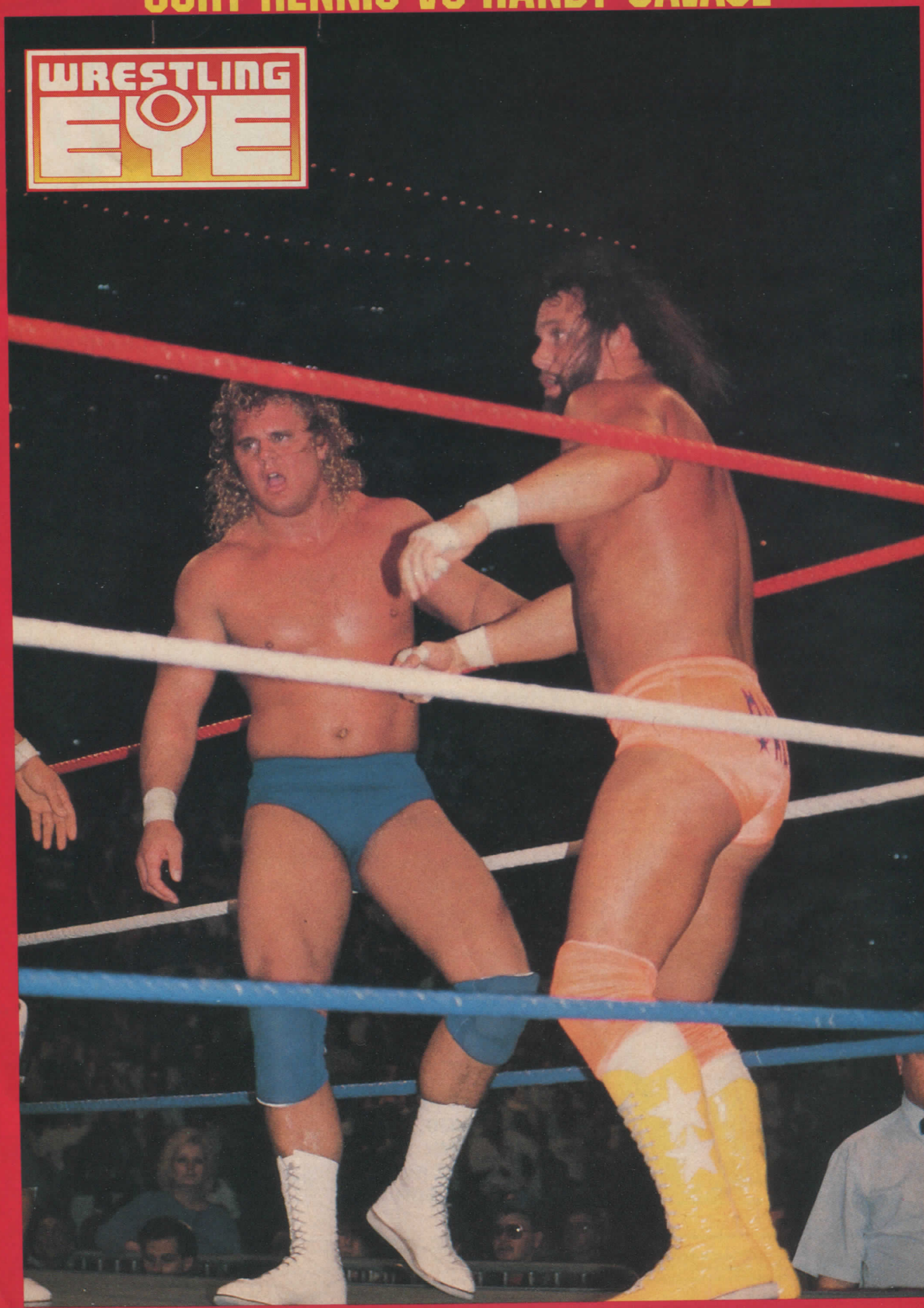
CURT HENNIG VS RANDY SAVAGE



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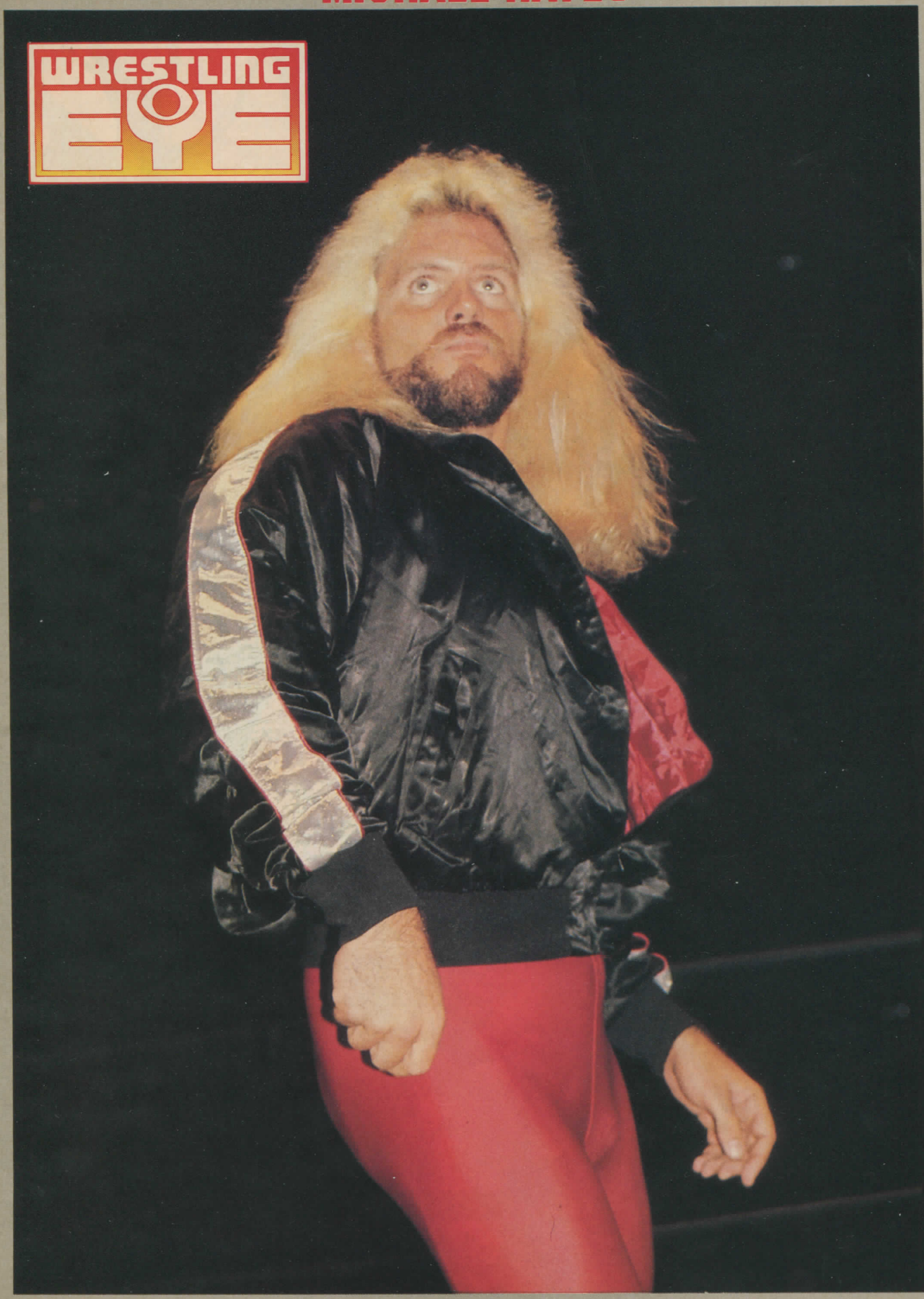

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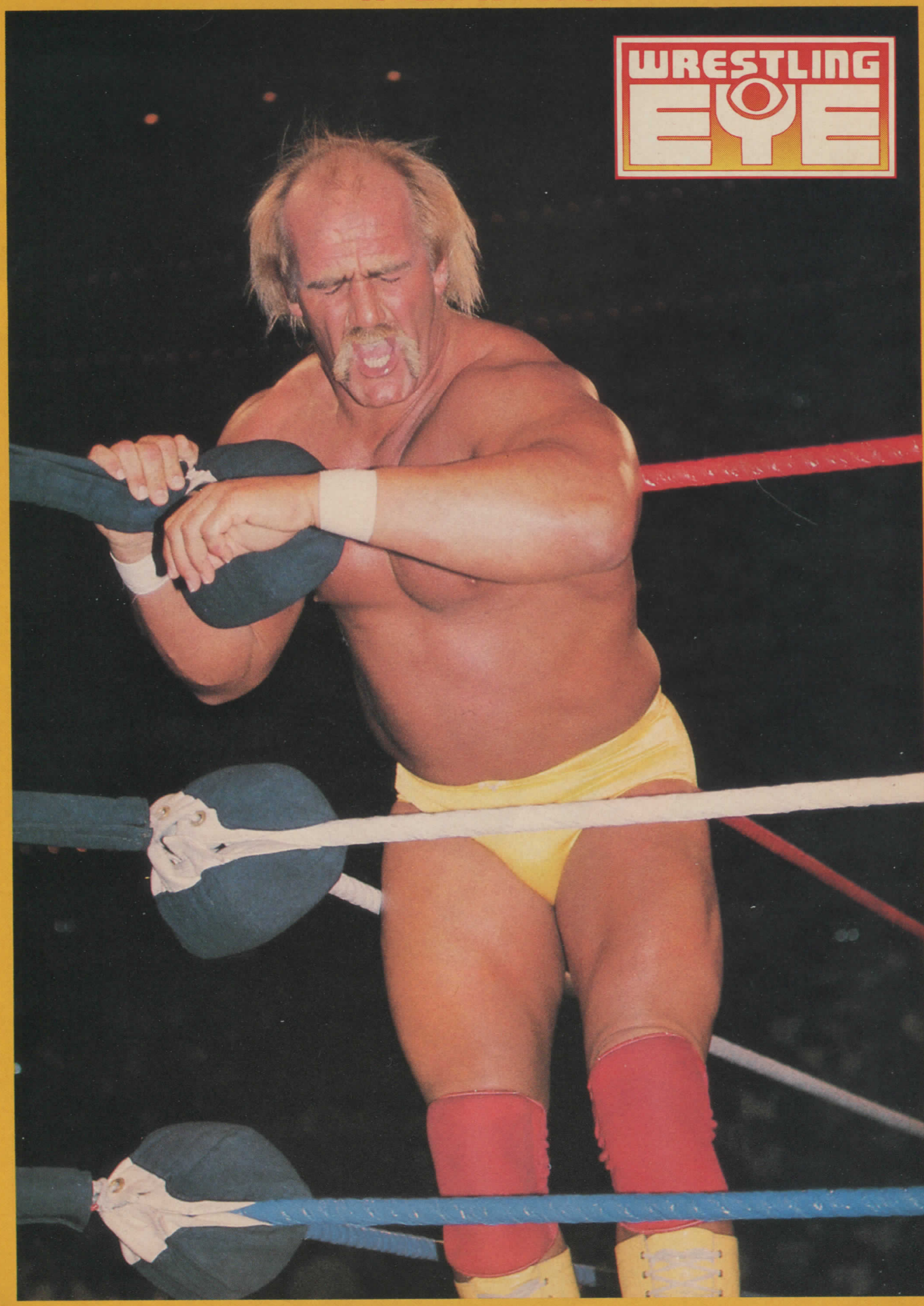

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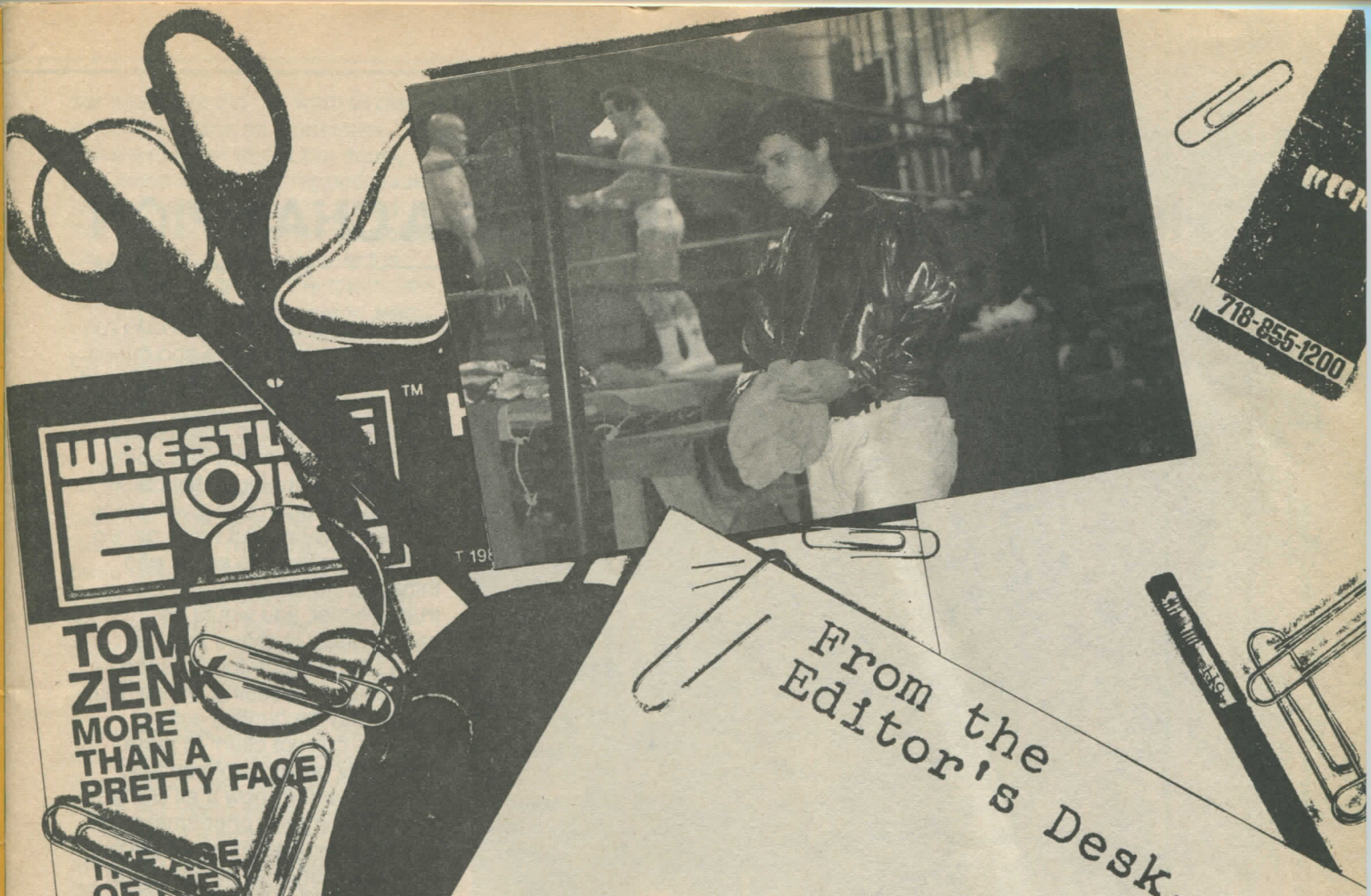


From the Editor's Desk....

THE WWF—NO PRIDE

Does anybody else want to claim that wrestling is just entertainment and not a sport? The WWF, an organization that did have a percentage of dignity has claimed to the New Jersey State Athletic Commission that wrestling is strictly an entertainment venture and therefore should not be taxed as a legitimate sport. First of all, isn't every sport entertainment. Look at the Harlem Globetrotters in basketball, for example. Secondly, doesn't the WWF make enough money? The accusations that they have made about this sport have just been ploys to save a couple of bucks. C'mon guys. Thirdly, why does the WWF even care about New Jersey, a state that hasn't exactly been a hotbed of wrestling for the past couple of years. Lastly, speaking for all of us involved with pro wrestling who have honor, pride, dignity and respect for the sport—GO CRAWL BACK UNDER YOUR ROCK!!

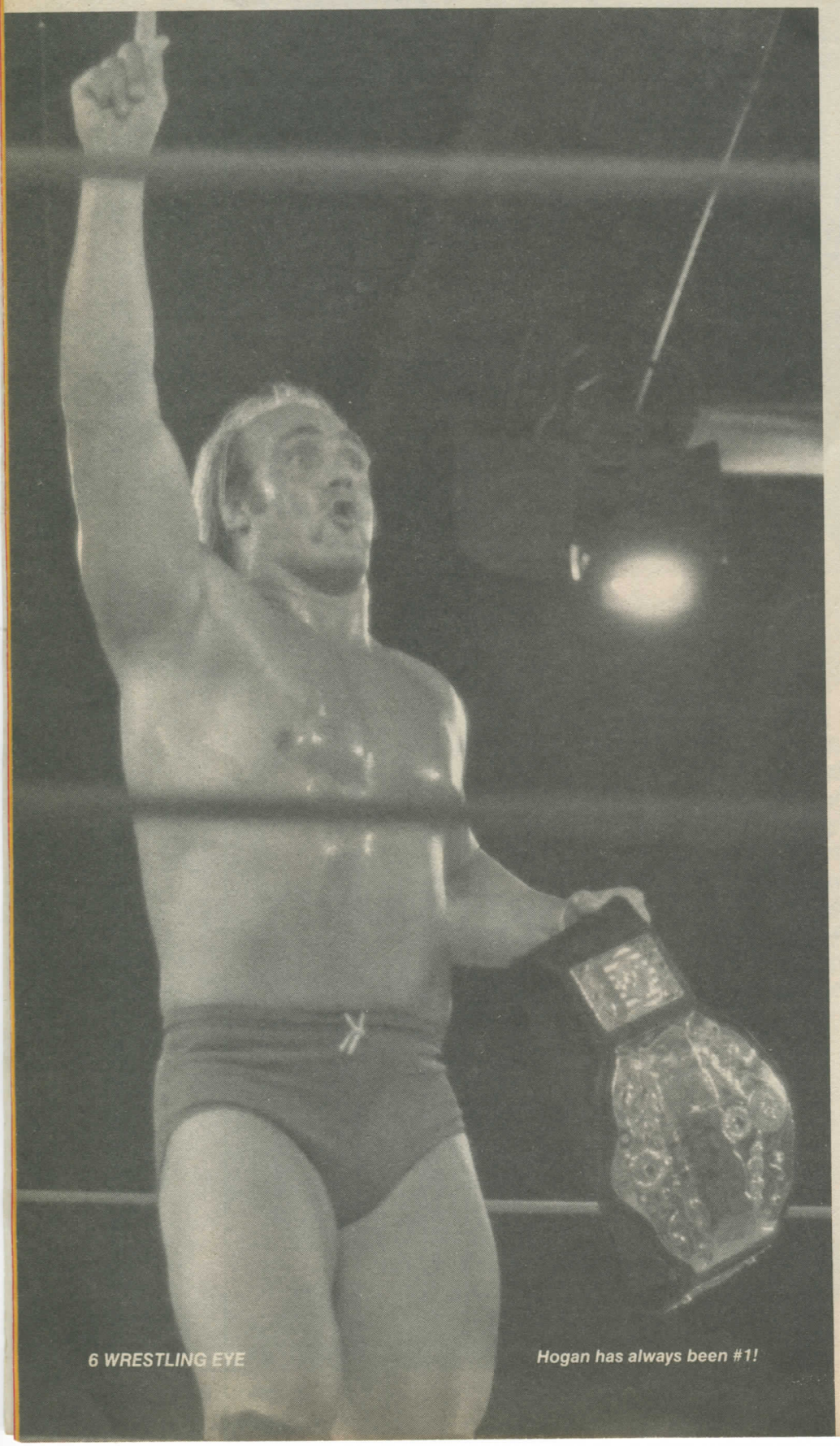
Obnoxiously yours,

Hubie Marx

Hubie Marx
Editor, Wrestling Eye Magazine

HULK HOGAN:
THE BIRTH AND REBIRTH OF A CHAMPION

By Steve Mueller



Hogan has always been #1!

Hulk Hogan, the hero of the WWF has been in our hearts and minds for a long time. Now, after the exciting match up of WRESTLEMANIA V, it's a bit easier to understand what makes up a true champion. From the beginning of his career to now, Hulk Hogan has given many fans excitement and thrills galore. While there may be some who think the Hulkster is not a true wrestler, you would be hardpressed to argue that he hasn't done much for the sport of professional wrestling. While many of you may be familiar with Hogan's current claim to fame, there may be some of you who don't remember how it all started. In chronicling the phenomena known as Hulkamania, we begin with a look back at the events of Dec 26, 1983:

NEW YORK, MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, DECEMBER 26, 1983: For those who follow professional wrestling with any degree of devotion, the Christmas season ended tonight. There will be no New Year's Eve celebration. An Iranian grinch has stolen the holiday spirit and is holding Santa hostage in the desert. The impossible has happened. Bob Backlund has lost the WWF world title. And not just to anyone. Backlund, the all-American boy who loves kids and helps old ladies, who looks like Howdy Doody on steroids, who is so wholesome and respectable, you can see the apple pie dripping from the corners of his mouth, has lost the WWF belt to a sworn enemy of America.

The Iron Shiek, out of Tehran, Iran, is the new WWF world champion. The Shiek won the gold when Arnold Skaaland, Backlund's manager and trusted friend, literally threw in the towel. Arnold refused to watch Backlund take further punishment from the Iranian madman. It was revealed after the match that Bob Backlund had entered the bout with a serious shoul-

der injury. He did not want to disappoint his fans on Christmas. Skaaland knew about the injury, and when the Shiek trapped Backlund in the camel clutch, a hold that tortures the shoulder muscles, Skaaland, fearing permanent injury, surrendered for the champion.

After the match, Skaaland said, "I had no choice, the towel was in my hand and well...Bob was suffering so much and I knew he wouldn't give up." Backlund claimed he could have broken the hold.

Wild rumors circulated in the dressing room after the match. Some claimed that Skaaland had been seen having dinner with the Shiek the night before the match. An investigation by the New York State Athletic Commission is expected. It is a dark day for wrestling.

When the ominous white towel skipped across the Garden mat, a depression, with an intensity not felt in this world since weeping Frenchmen watched grinning Nazi storm troopers goosestep into downtown Paris, settled upon the fans watching the battle in the Mecca of Maul. All hope was lost. With the diabolical Iron Shiek sitting on wrestling's premier throne, the American way of life was certainly in severe peril. It was as if the Iranian army had landed on the shores of Staten Island, and then marched unopposed into America's heartland, bringing the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave to its knees as they burned cities and kicked children in the groin. It is, indeed, a dark day for wrestling. And for America.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS, JANUARY 5, 1984:

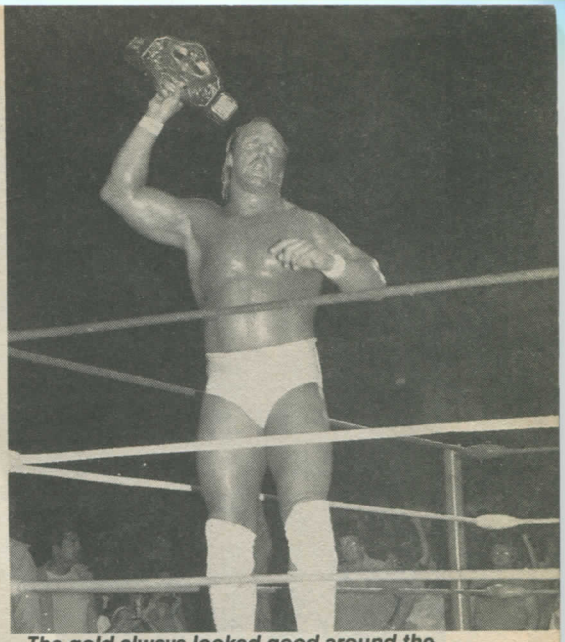
The WWF's crack medical team announced today that Bob Backlund has been declared physically unfit to wrestle. Bob's shoulder injury, aggravated during his title loss to the Iron Shiek, has not responded to treatment. The world famous WWF medical team ordered the former champ to take a long rest. Backlund will be unable to meet the Iron Shiek in a return match scheduled for January 23rd at Madison Square Garden. As of this date, no replacement for Bob Backlund in the match has been named.

When the announcement was made at the hastily called press conference at the WWF headquarter offices, the Iron Shiek laughed beserkedly and frantically waved his Iranian flag. Fearless Freddie Blassie, the Iron Shiek's manager who now calls himself the Ayatollah Blassie, gloated. The Iron Shiek, rumored to be in daily contact with the Ayatollah Khomeini, has knocked Bob Backlund out of pro wrestling. There was no comment from the former champ. He was unable to attend the conference. The disgrace deepens. The Iron Shiek has dragged the American flag through slime and mud. A nation strains its eyes, searching for a hero. Who will save the Land of the Free? Who, indeed.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS, JANUARY 11, 1984:

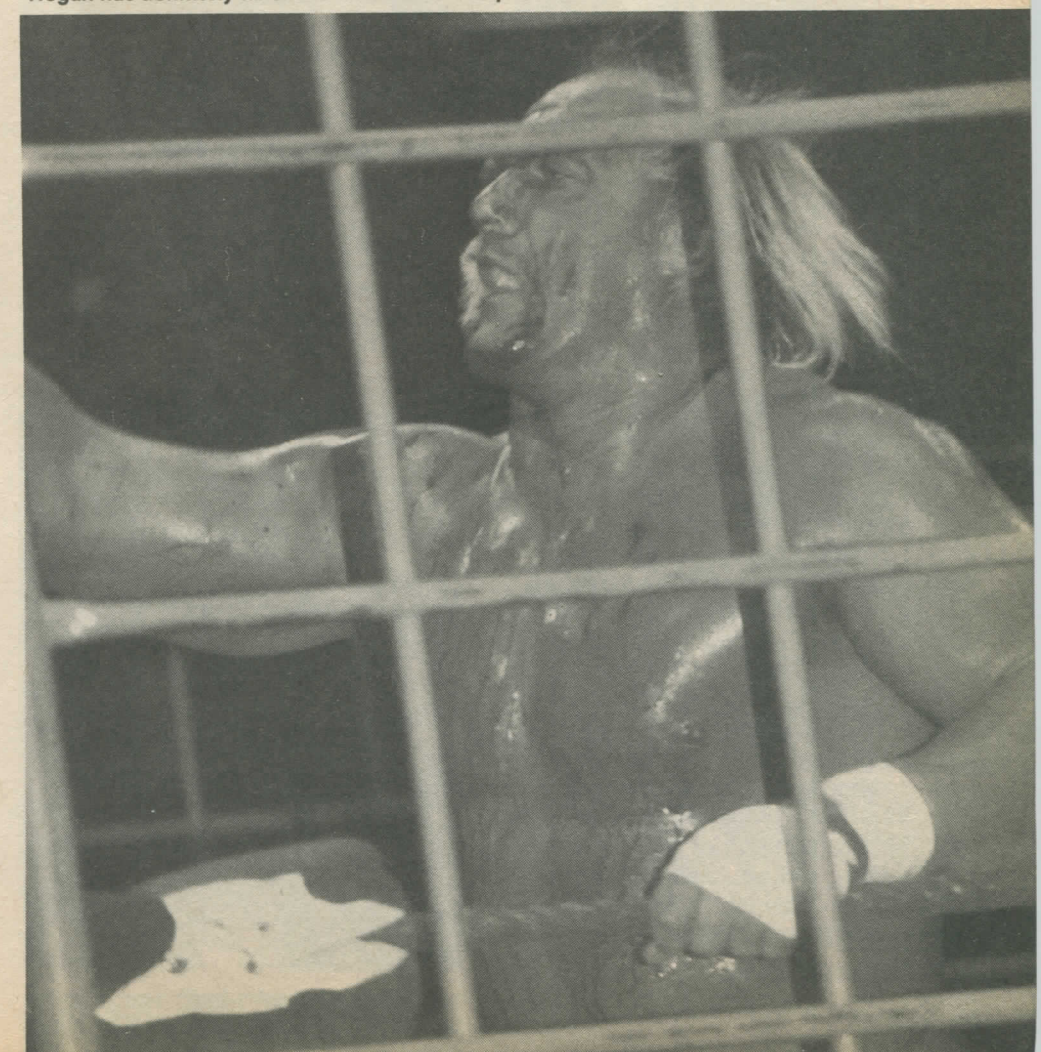
At another hastily called Press conference, which Bob Backlund could not attend, Vince McMahon Jr. announced that the WWF Championship Committee has selected Hulk Hogan, who has recently returned from a hugely successful world tour, to replace Bob Backlund in the title match scheduled for Madison Square Garden on January 23rd.

The gathered press corps



The gold always looked good around the Hulkster's waist.

Hogan has definitely taken his knocks in the squared circle.



No one can deny the Hulksters brute strength. Many have begged for mercy.

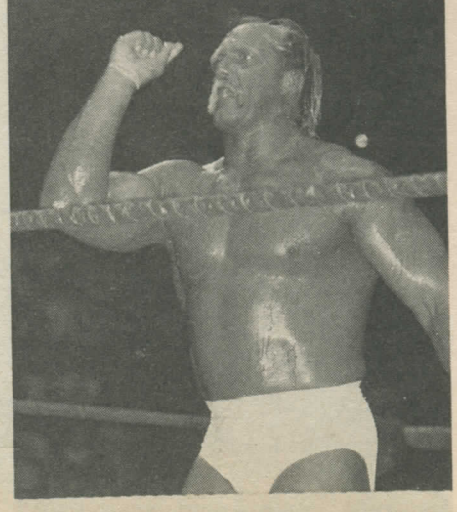
greeted the announcement with much consternation. During his last tenure in the WWF, Hogan was a notorious rule breaker, hated by the fans. His manager at that time was Fearless Freddie Blassie, The same white haired villain who now manages the Iron Shiek.

Reports from sources deep inside the World Wrestling Federation claim that during his world tour, Hogan realized the error of his ways and now wants only to atone for his past sins. As proof, these sources offer Hogan's participation in a recent televised tag team match. Bob Backlund was his partner. Bob would never team with a man who maintains a villainous nature.

After the announcement, the Iron Shiek protested vigorously. The Iranian patriot claimed his training schedule was designed for combat against Backlund. "Hogan is completely different type of wrestler," said the Shiek. "No fair!" An official protest to the WWF Championship Committee was denied. The Ayatollah Blassie threatened to take legal action to stop the bout.

"No fair," said Blassie.

When's Hulkamania gonna run over you?



NEW YORK CITY, JANUARY 15, 1984:
Hulk Hogan appeared on television and asked wrestling fans to forgive him for his past misdeeds. The Hulkster claimed that in the past, he was led astray by Fred Blassie and by the desire for huge amounts of cash. Hogan said, "Man, I have seen the light! I've changed my ways. Bob Backlund was a great champion. And Bob is one hundred and fifty percent behind me! I will reclaim America's honor! When these twenty-four inch pythons wrap around the Iron Shiek's neck, he's gonna be beggin' for mercy! And Blassie, if you stick your nose into the action, I'll break it! I hate you, Blassie! Hulkamania is going to be running wild at Madison Square Garden! You know, man, when I walk down the street, down Broadway, and see the sadness in the eyes of wrestling fans, well man, it just makes me want to fight harder. Iron Shiek, the Hulkster is coming after you. What you gonna do when Hulkamania runs wild on you?"

Early reports indicate that Hulk Hogan has begun to win the support of the fans. Neither the Ayatollah Blassie nor the Iron Shiek could be reached for comment. Bob Backlund was also unavailable for comment.

NEW YORK, MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, JANUARY 23RD, 1984:
Boos shook Madison Square Garden. The Iron Shiek stood in the center of the ring, waving the Iranian flag and pointing at the world championship belt around his waist. Ayatollah Blassie, wearing an Arabian headdress, hurled insults at the sell-out crowd. Angry fans in the blue seats hurled debris. Ticket scalpers claimed they could hear the noise outside on Seventh Avenue. Most scalpers kept a ticket for themselves.

The crowd around the dressing room exit ramp stirred. A distant roar erupted in a corner of the Mecca of Maul. In the shadows beneath the entrance overhang, a huge figure loomed. Cheers and applause erupted amidst booing. The pounding beat of "Eye of the Tiger" roared out of the PA system. All the boo's became ecstatic cheers. The huge Garden crowd stood and chanted. "Ho-gan, Ho-

gan, Ho-gan, U-S-A, U-S-A, Ho-gan, Ho-gan."

The Hulkster ran down the aisle to the ring, his eyes those of a tiger, intense and deadly. Hands reached out of the crowd to pound Hulk Hogan on the back and to urge him onward to victory. The Hulkster returned the crowd's salute and vaulted into the ring. The Iron Shiek and Blassie each took a backward step. The Hulkster shook his long blond hair and pointed dramatically at the diabolical duo.

"Ho-gan, Ho-gan, Ho-gan."

The Hulkster wore a yellow tee shirt with American-Made printed on the front and Hulkamania printed on the back. He slowly ripped the tee shirt from his body and then threw the shreds into the crowd. Long time Garden ushers claimed they have never heard the crowd roar so loudly, so intently, even that time there was the chance the Rangers might win their first Stanley Cup in modern history. Before the introductions were finished, the Hulkster attacked. The Iron Shiek crashed to the mat...

...the tide of battle turned. The Garden was so quiet, you could have heard an elbow drop. The Hulkster was face down on the mat. The Iron Shiek leaped on Hogan's back. "Oh, no, the Shiek's gonna lock it on," yelled a ringside fan. The Iron Shiek's hands locked around the Hulkster's forehead. "He's got the Hulk in the camel-clutch." The dread camel-clutch, the same hold that destroyed Bob Backlund. Hulk's arms dangled limply across the Iron Shiek's thighs as the Iranian destroyer pulled back on Hogan's forehead. The Shiek laughed.

Tears streamed down faces in the crowd. Ayatollah Blassie raised his arms in triumph and then used his arms to fend off a shower of debris. The Iron Shiek laughed louder. All hope was lost. The disgrace will continue. America was doomed. Some fans turned away from the ring, unable to watch the end of a dream.

One of Hogan's hands began to move. A finger jabbed upward. The crowd could feel it coming. Blassie shook his head no. The Hulk rose from the mat. The crowd's roar shook the building. The Iron Shiek's eyes snapped open in disbelief. The clutched camel had regained life. It tried to stand.

Here's the scenario that led to the confrontation at WRESTLEMANIA V.

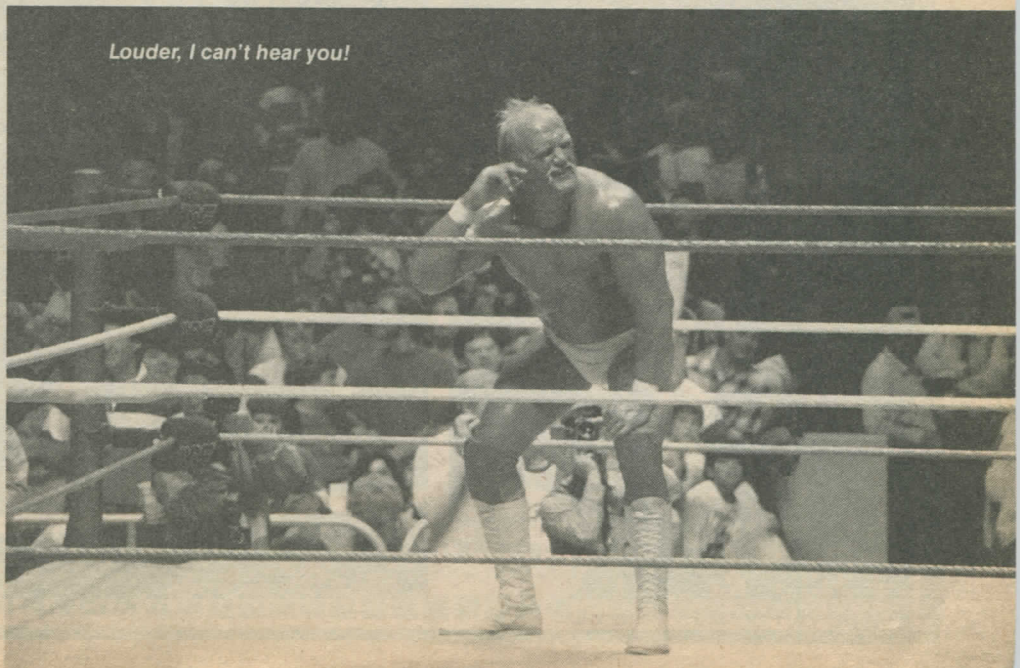
Some say it came upon the Garden like a sudden wind. Hulkamania swept through the crowd. With the Shiek still hanging on his back, the Hulkster stood erect. The dread camel-clutch was broken.

It is said that the spirit of George Washington hovered over the Hulkster as he ran backward and slammed the Iron Shiek into the corner ring post. The Hulk tossed the Iranian badman around the ring like a gang of crows mugging a scarecrow. The roar of the crowd ripped through the Garden roof and stopped traffic on Seventh Avenue.

The Hulkster leaped high and drove the back of his leg against the prone Shiek's throat. The Garden was still as the Hulk went for the pin. The ref leaped into position to make the count.

"One! Two! Three!"

It was the Mets in '69 and the U.S. Olympic hockey gold medal win rolled into one event. Grown men swooned. Women wept. The Hulk had won and America was avenged. All was right in the world. The Hulkster raised the championship belt above his head and pointed to the crowd. "It's yours too." Hulkamania was running wild and an American hero was born. It was a great night for America. And for pro wrestling.



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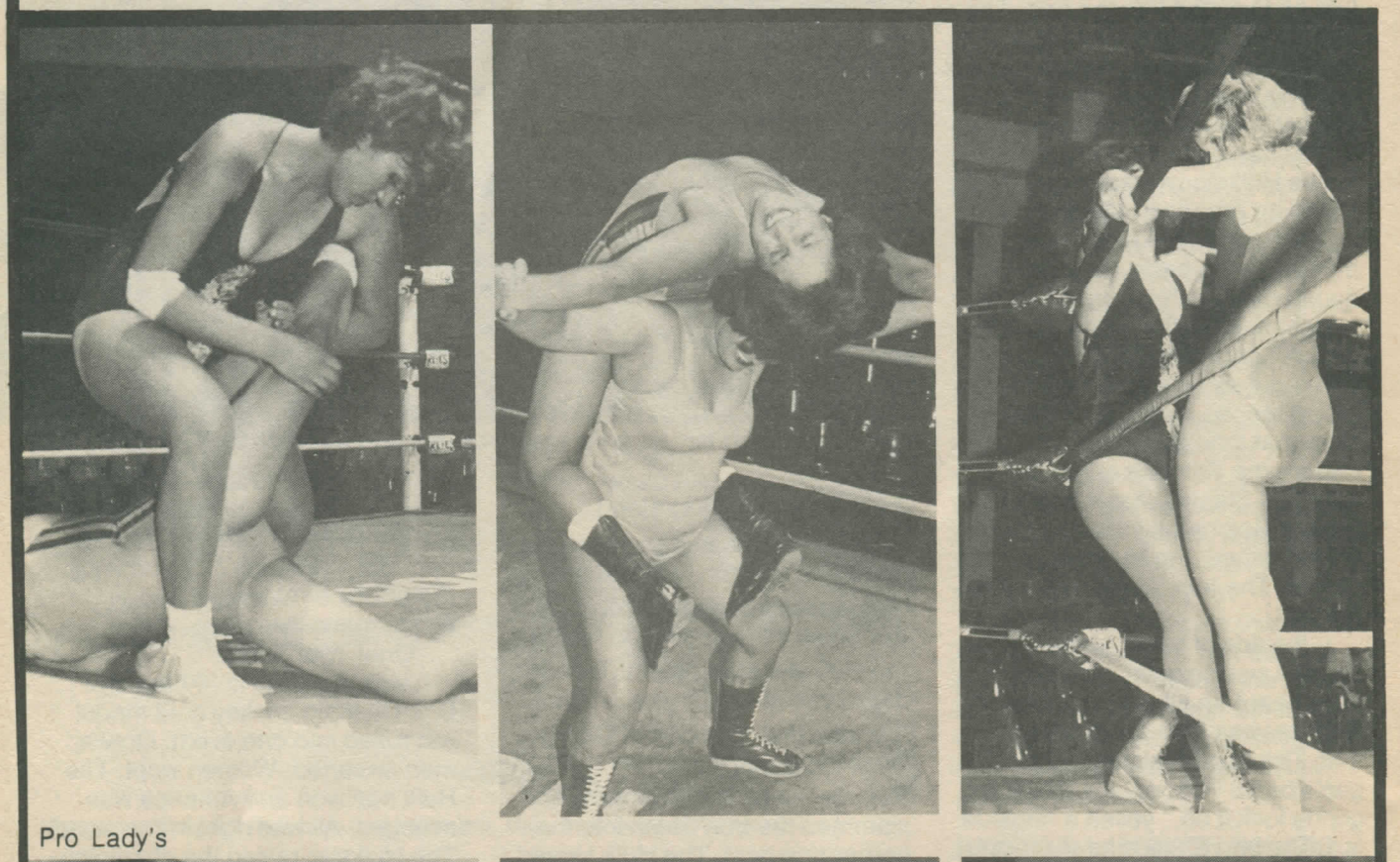

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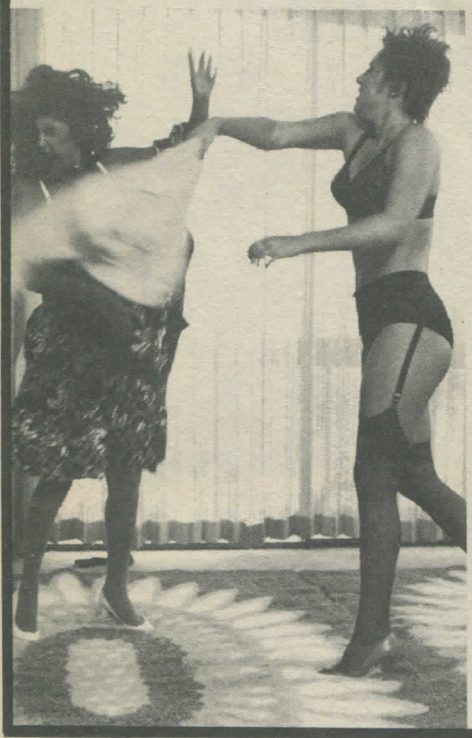

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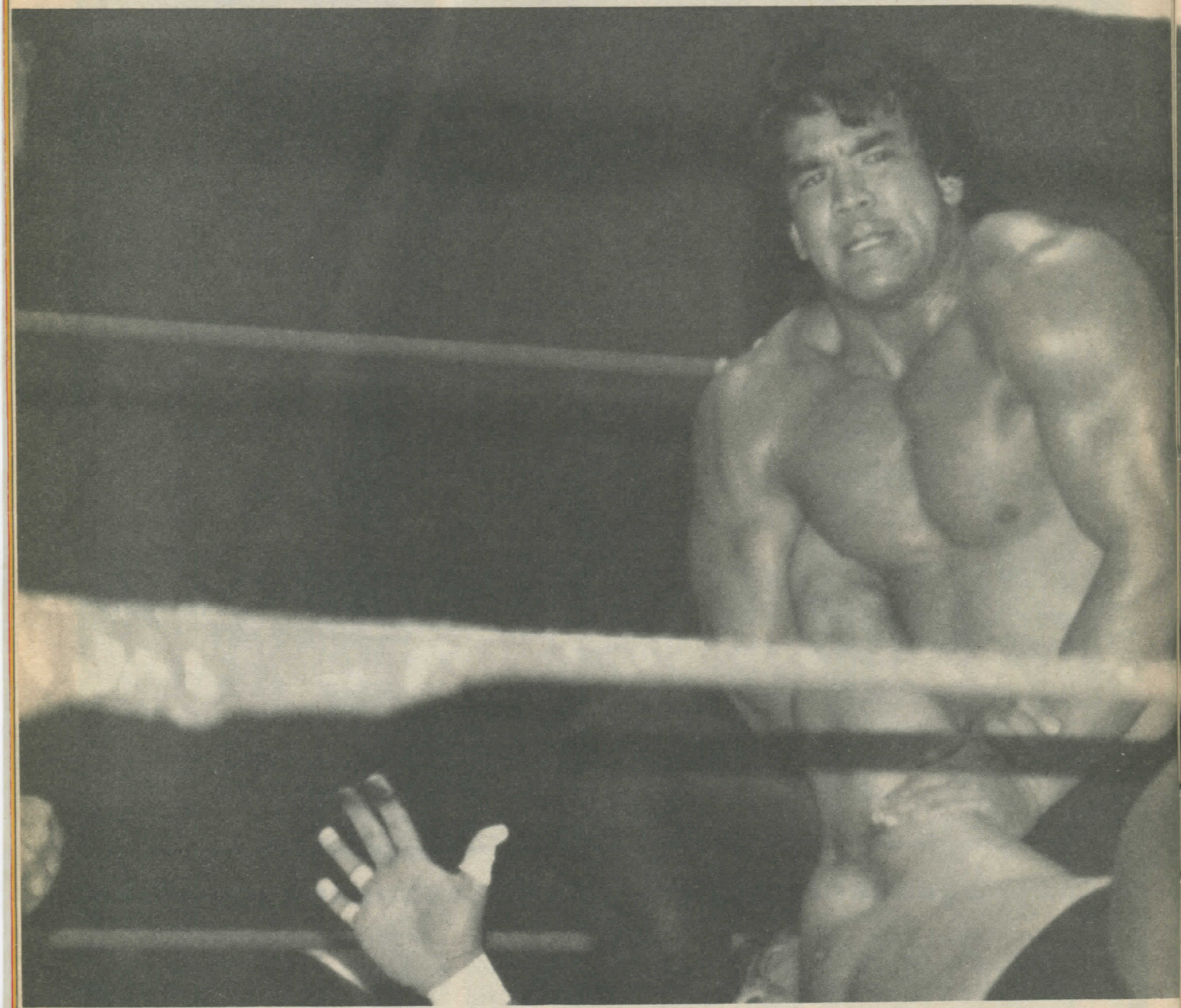
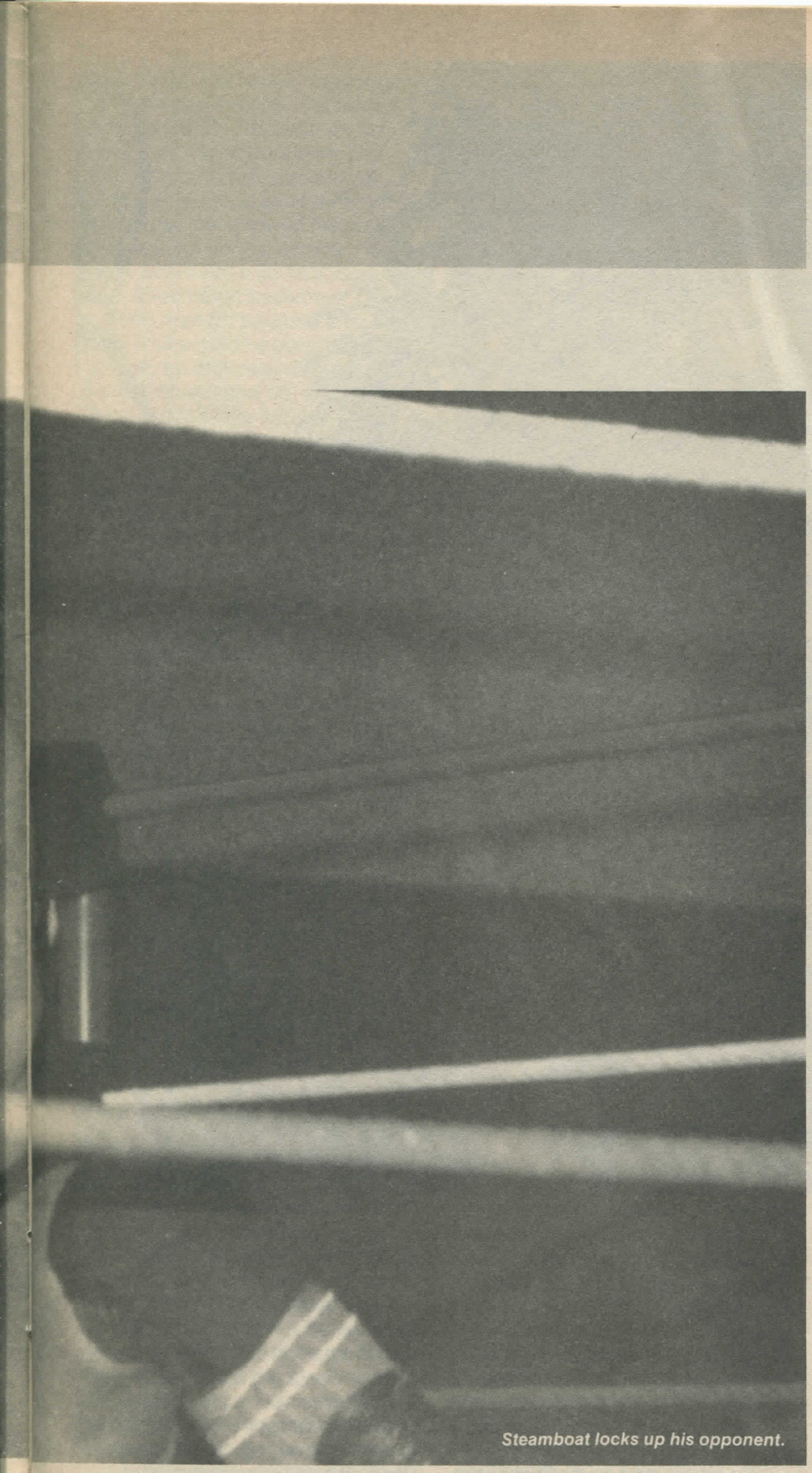
RICKY STEAMBOAT

THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON By Bobby Guill



Ah, so you say Dragons are mythical creatures, made up out of the minds of people who are unaware of reality. After all when was the last time anyone saw a dragon walking or even flying on this planet. Maybe they are invisible, just like Wonder Woman's airplane; only in storybooks. So the story begins:

Ric Flair has faced just about every great wrestler in this great sport. A man who believes in the old saying "If you have it, flaunt it." Mr. Flair or "Nature Boy" as he likes to be called has every thing a man could want. Expensive cars, clothes custom made, $500.00 a pair shoes,



Steamboat locks up his opponent.

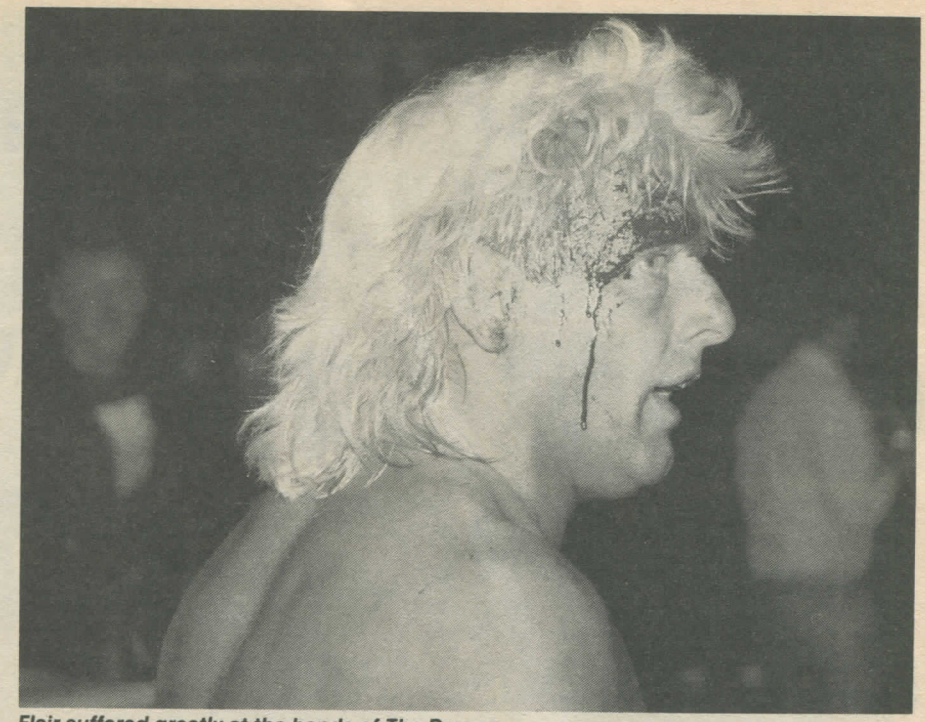
Rolex watches, and the most beautiful women in the world at his arm. Most men would kill to have this. Basically Flair has; he has crippled many opponents. It is even rumored that he has caused more divorces and boyfriends being jilted than the great lover Don Juan. Don't get me wrong, Mr. Flair is not just a man of great wealth and desire; he can destroy anyone inside the ring. Ric Flair owns the squared circle, no one can wrestle like the champ. Ask any of his victims. Flair can go the limit and he can take anything they can dish out. He fears no one. Lex Luger had dreams of toppling Flair from his nest, so did Sting. Barry Windham did the smartest thing, he joined Flair's side. Luger and Sting were destroyed. Eddie Gilbert thought he might have all the right moves to take the belt from Slick Ric. Poor Eddie, he got his little nose broken. Hot Stuff should have learned to leave well enough alone. Mr. Gilbert was determined to see Flair pinned. Maybe even stripped of the World's Heavyweight Championship. He got every single piece of film that showed Flair in a title match. This film even went back six years ago. Eddie got some tapes of Flair's feud with Rick Steamboat. All of a sudden Eddie saw Flair come closer than ever to getting beat. Steamboat could hold his own against the mighty champ. Mr. Gilbert felt lost again. Rick Steamboat is retired from wrestling. He has stated that he would not return to the ring. It was time to be with his lovely wife, Bonnie, and their new baby son. Rick Steamboat was the happiest man alive; or was he? Rick Steamboat had a lot to offer his son. Steamer could boast to his new son about all of the great things he had accomplished. The stories of travels to great cities and countries to defeat the most popular of all wrestlers. But the one thing he could not give his son was the chance to be the son of a World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion. Steamboat has held many titles but never a World's Heavyweight title. This burned deep inside of Rick Steamboat. His soul cried out for this belt. He became restless. Eddie called Steamboat and asked for his help but Steamboat stated that he wanted to be with his family, and wrestling would keep him away. Weeks passed, Steamboat would catch a glimpse of Flair on T.V. and become enraged. Flair is everything Steamboat is not; arrogant, cocky, full of disregard for the family but the thing that burned deeper in Steamboat's soul; Flair was the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion. Steamboat could not take anymore. He called Gil-

Ricky Steamboat is certainly a family man.

bert up and said he would help after all. The reason for Rick Steamboat's comeback? He claimed that it was to secure his son's future. Winning the 10 pounds of gold would do that. Everyone has a desire or quest burning deep in us. Some have the guts to go after their certain goal, never giving up. Others run after falling, instead of getting up and trying again, they choose to hide. Steamboat lost many times in his quest for the gold 6 years ago; so he ran to the W.W.F. He no longer had what it took to face Flair. Steamboat never forgot his dream, he just ran from it. Sometimes it takes a jolt to get us back in our right minds. With Rick Steamboat it took his son, realizing that all but one of his dreams had come true. The dream to be World's champion. That night on national T.V. proved that dreams can come true. No matter how difficult it may seem. Rick Steamboat came to the ring that night, determined to secure a part of his son's future. Steamer had the match from the beginning. Flair could not keep up with this Hawaiian muscle man. Rick Steamboat used everything he had and even more. Every time he chopped Ric Flair, he could see the past starting to come back. At this he fought harder. When Steamboat came off of that top rope and hit Flair pinning him, he knew his time was here. One, two, three, Flair had been beat. Sure, it was a tag team match and the belt was not on the line; but Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat proved that during his time away Ric Flair had been on his mind. Now Flair was getting worried. Flair started to lose his coolness, he could not stand being in the same building with Rick Steamboat. During Steamboat interviews, Flair would try to attack

Steamboat; intimidate the dragon; but Flair was the one who ended up on the floor. Flair would even jump Rick Steamboat after his match, hoping that Steamboat would be too tired to beat him. But again Steamer showed his power and destroyed Flair. Ric Flair became obsessed with Rick Steamboat. Steamboat became a marked man for surprise attacks. Only Flair would be surprised. Rick Steamboat took everything Flair could dish out and still stood tall. Flair couldn't take it. Slowly Flair started losing his cockiness, He surrounded himself with beautiful women, hoping to get Steamboat off of his mind. Deep down, Flair knew Rick Steamboat was superior. Finally Flair told his new boss Ted Turner that he wanted Rick Steamboat in a title match. He wanted to prove that Steamboat was not the man that Slick Ric is. So the contract was signed for the Chi-Town Rumble. Flair defended his belt there successfully many times. Maybe this would get rid of Steamboat. The tension was so thick that you could cut it with a knife. It seemed to Rick Steamboat that the final match would never come. Steamboat, the family man, waited in the dressing room with his lovely wife and son by his side. Finally the time of truth arrived. First Flair came out. In the background we could hear Flair's music over the loudspeakers. Suddenly, the spotlight focused on four lovely ladies dressed in black. They were making their way to the ring and behind them was the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Decked out in the most elaborate robe, showing to the whole world that he was still the King.

Slowly Flair walked to the squared circle; doing it in the style that only Ric Flair could. Steamboat was in for one hell of a night. The music changes to a different song. The light shines down the aisle toward the dressing room. Like a flash of lightning Rick Steamboat came toward us. Beside him was his reason for this night, his wife Bonnie and his most prized possession; little Richard Steamboat. Steamboat hugged his wife and child, then he climbed into the ring. Destiny was about to be changed. Many would talk after this night was over. For



Flair suffered greatly at the hands of The Dragon.

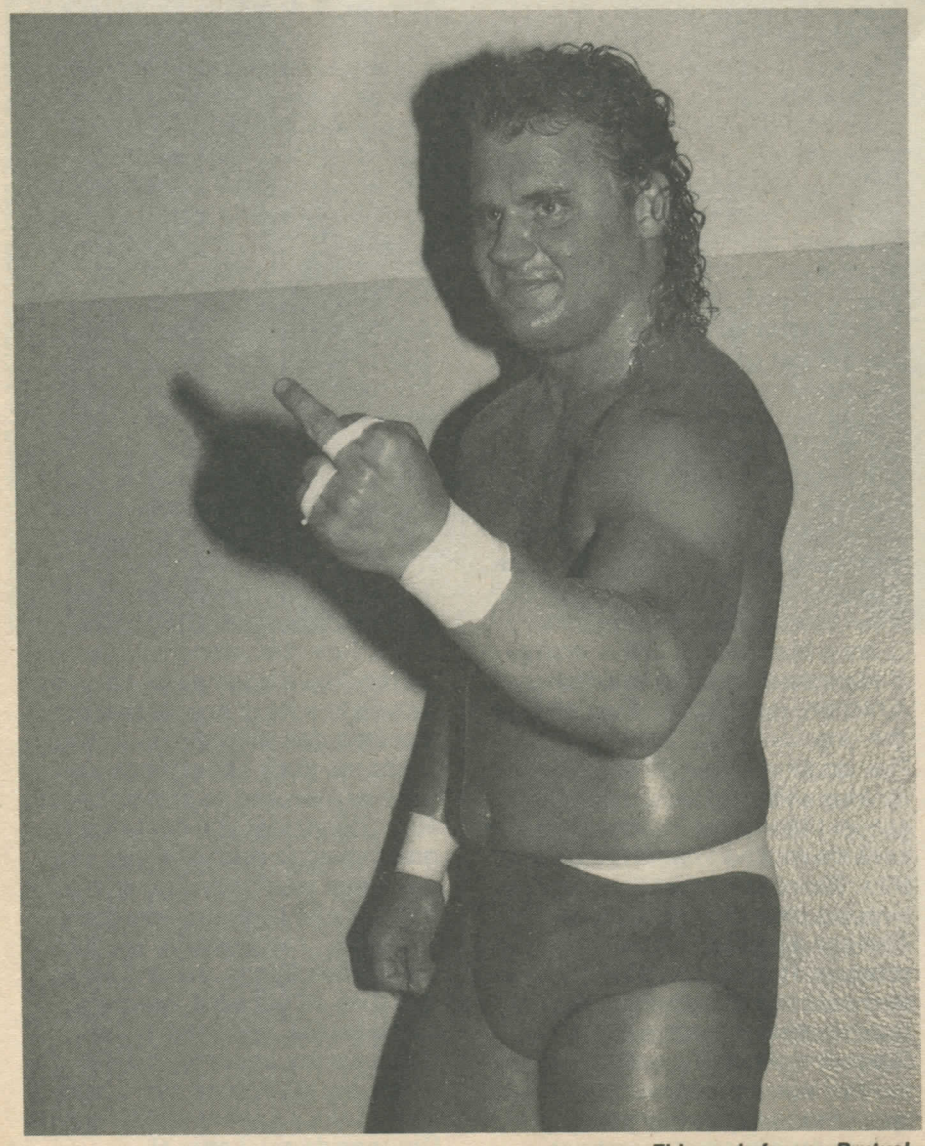
tonight history was going to be made. The bell rung and the action started. Flair came at Steamboat with murder in his eyes. The champ was going to finally get rid of the dragon. But Steamboat had dreamed too long for this night to let it end so soon. Rick Steamboat took control. He proved to Ric Flair that he was in the best condition of his life. Flair lost all of his composure. No matter what he did Steamboat came out on top. However proving why he has been the champ for so long, Flair gained control. Slowly Flair tortured Steamboat. Knowing that tonight was his, Flair let out a long and confident "WOOO." At this Steamboat thought of his son back in the dressing room, hoping that his dad would be the next champ. The dragon burst with a bolt of energy that could have lit up downtown Chicago. He chopped Flair all over the ring.

Flair could not fight off this flurry of karate punches. Every time Flair got up, Steamboat knocked him back down. Then came the deadly blow. Rick Steamboat threw the exhausted champ into the ropes, Flair sprung back. Steamer scooped Flair up and power slammed him. Slowly Rick Steamboat climbed to the top ropes just like that night on T.V. only this time, the belt was on the line. Perched up on the rope just like a hawk waiting for its prey; Steamboat jumped, flying high, he hit his target; the confused champ. The hawk had landed. Flair hit the mat like a ton of bricks. Steamboat was on top, hitting the canvas covering the wounded Flair. One, Two, Three, Ladies and Gentlemen we have a new World's Heavyweight Champ: Rick "THE DRAGON" Steamboat. The Dragon had breathed it's deadly fiery breath on the now ex-champ. Tears filled Steamboat's eyes. He called for the microphone. Half crying he yelled "Get my wife and baby out here." Holding little Richard closely to her chest Bonnie ran to the ring. Rick Steamboat grabbed his wife and kissed her, then he hugged his son. After this, the World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion, cradled his son into his arms, Rick Steamboat laid the belt on the little dragon's lap. This night proved to a lot of people that positive attitudes will shine thru. It also made me think about those oriental wise men and all of their beliefs. Rick Steamboat you came back and proved to everyone that you are a true warrior and much more, a father and husband who loves his family. Just because we don't see certain things, doesn't mean that they do not exist. Maybe, Santa is real, and what about those dollars under my pillow where my tooth once laid. I am a little confused about reality, maybe Dragons do exist after all.

CAN "THE BARBER" CUT UP "MR. PERFECT?"

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE VS CURT HENNIG

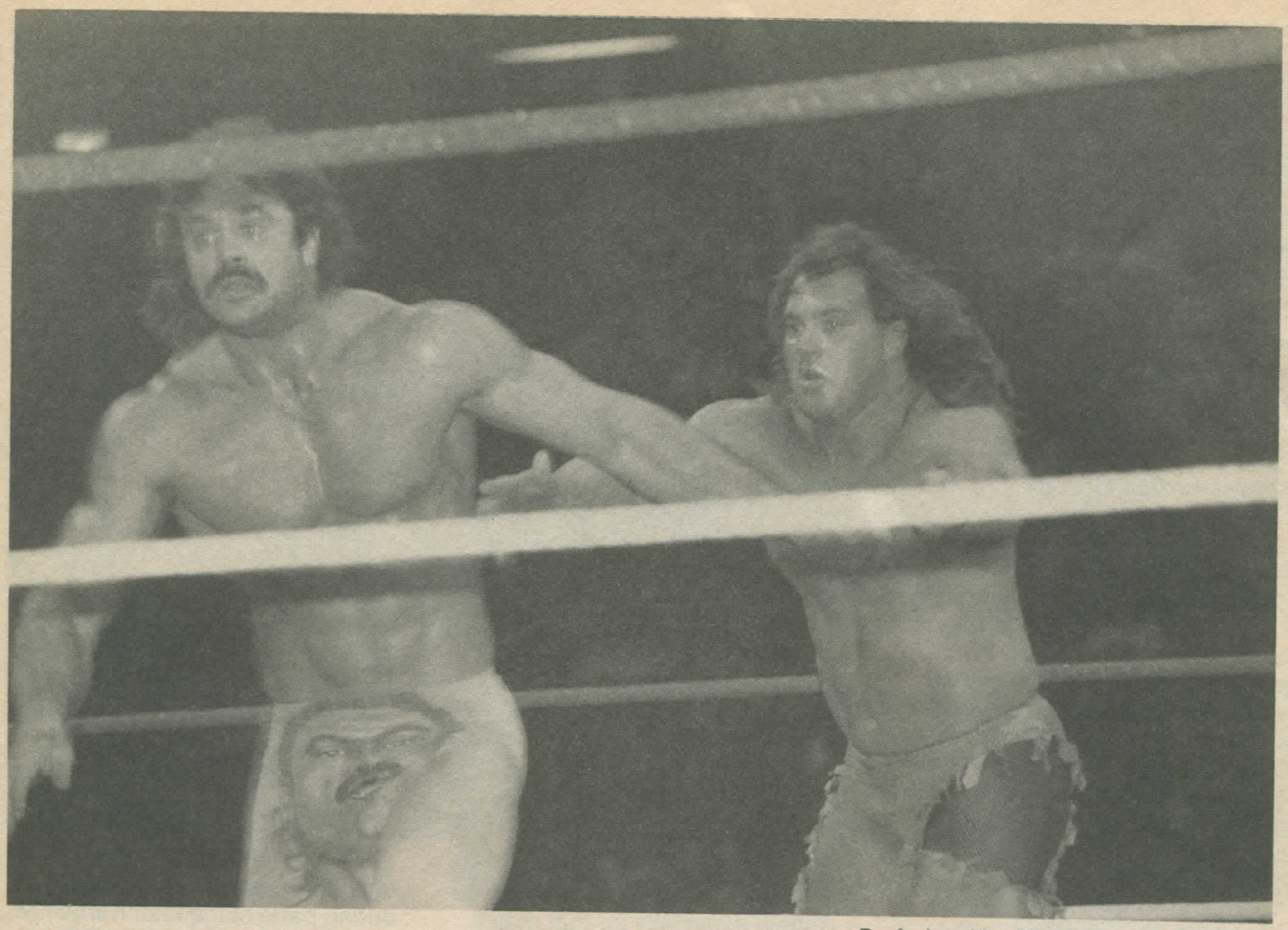
By Don Laible



This one's for you Brutus!

Now we will find out just how perfect Curt Hennig is. All the talk, all the promises have been put aside. It's put up or shut up time. On the surface, the heated feud that has taken center ring in the World Wrestling Federation between "Mr. Perfect" and Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake may not seem as evenly matched at first, but their ensuing battles have the possibilities of being remembered as classics. They are from two totally different wrestling molds. As the old saying goes, "opposites attract," Hennig and Beefcake have done more than just meet up, they've collided head on!

In sizing up their differences, a close analysis is needed on their mat styles. Each has scouted and prepared meticulously for what many experts are calling the most enduring professional challenges of their careers. Hennig, a second generation grappler, has trained since his youth with his wrestling father Larry "The Ax" Hennig, as well as with world champions of yesterday such as Pat O'Connor, Gene Kiniski and Verne Gagne. There isn't an area within the "squared circle" in which he doesn't feel comfortable. His amateur experience and knowledge of Greco-Roman holds has aided him greatly through the years. Among his peers and the public, Curt is regarded as a wrestler's wrestler. Capturing the American Wrestling



Beefcake whips Rick Rude across the ring.

Association's Heavyweight Championship has thus far been his most celebrated accomplishment.

In the case of Brutus Beefcake, during the past few years, he has been pushing his haircutting talents rather than actual wrestling holds. Appearance these days is apparently the top priority with "The Barber." He has demonstrated in the past that he was able to hold his own when put in a situation calling for him to match maneuvers with an opponent regarded as a ring tactician. But it's been a while since he has resorted to the skills which brought him to the "superstar" status he enjoys today.

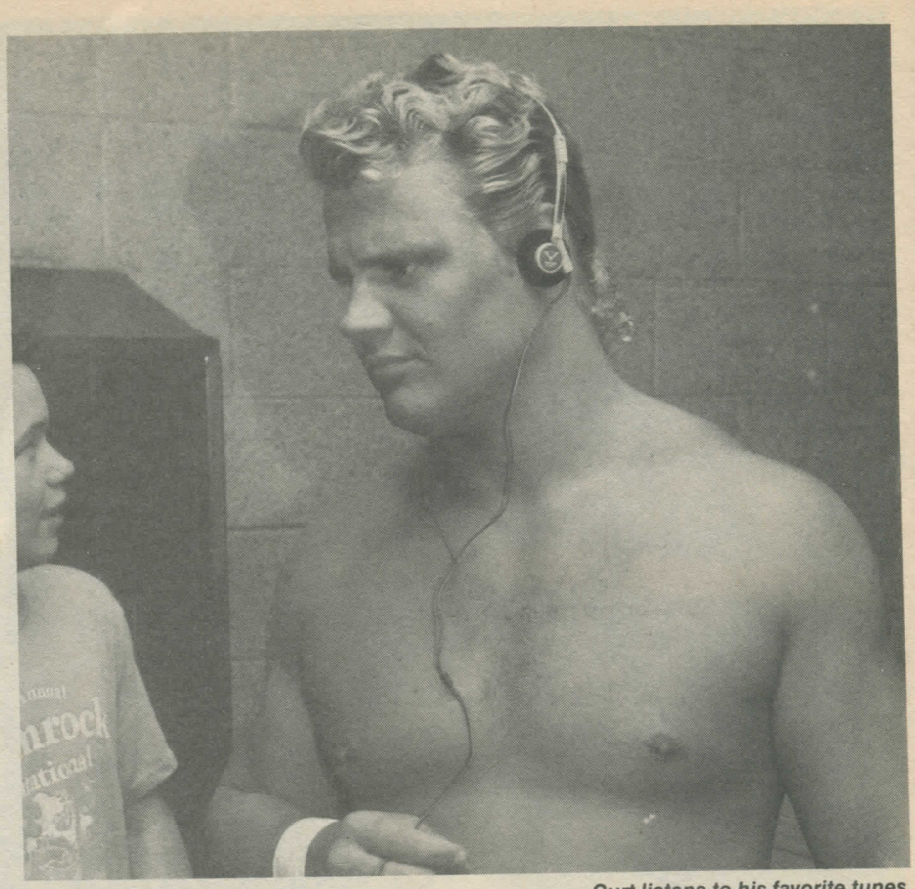
Hand to hand combat, that's what "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig has planned in dealing with his popular foe. No changes in his wrestling approach or hair length are anticipated by him, either. Beefcake is notorious for putting his competition down for the three count with use of a sleeper hold. Then, he utilizes a pair of scissors he leaves in his corner, and cuts away at will, like Delilah did to Sampson, until he has embarrassed the unconscious challenger in front of thousands of fans. Beefcake just may have bit off more than he can chew in his situation with "Mr. Perfect." The same old opponents over the past five years have not allowed him to be in the sharpest of competitive form. He may not be able to handle a quality, fresh, enthusiastic "Mr. Perfect." Other than the isolated and painful incident involving "Outlaw" Ron Bass last summer, when Beefcake had his forehead sliced open by his challenger's spurs, he'd had little if any difficulty with those he's faced.

It's the young veteran against an athlete in his twilight years as a pro. Not yet 30 years old, Hennig has been touring for promotions worldwide for nearly a dozen years. Each year has been more productive and lucrative than the last. Since "Mr. Perfect's" arrival in the WWF he's been likened to Ted "The Million Dollar Man" DiBiase in that everything both have promised to deliver, have been delivered. Strong wills to put in the best performances night after night have made them two of the most talked about competitors in their craft. Besides gaining the AWA belt from Nick Bockwinkel in May 1987, Hennig has also held the Pacific Northwest title, as well as the AWA Tag Team Title with Scott Hall as his partner. Much of that success came as a result of long talks and strategy sessions with his father. With the grade of talent slipping significantly in the AWA, the WWF appealed to "Mr. Perfect" as the promotion offering the most diverse and difficult competition. Hennig knew, with the right opponent, he would finally get the respect he deserved. The WWF is known worldwide while the AWA has had its territory shortened considerably over the past five years.

Beefcake needs an athlete of Hennig's caliber to fall victim to him in order to stay on top in the minds of promoters and his legion of fans. No count-out of ring, no disqualification or questionable calls, submission holds or pinning "Mr. Perfect" in the middle of the

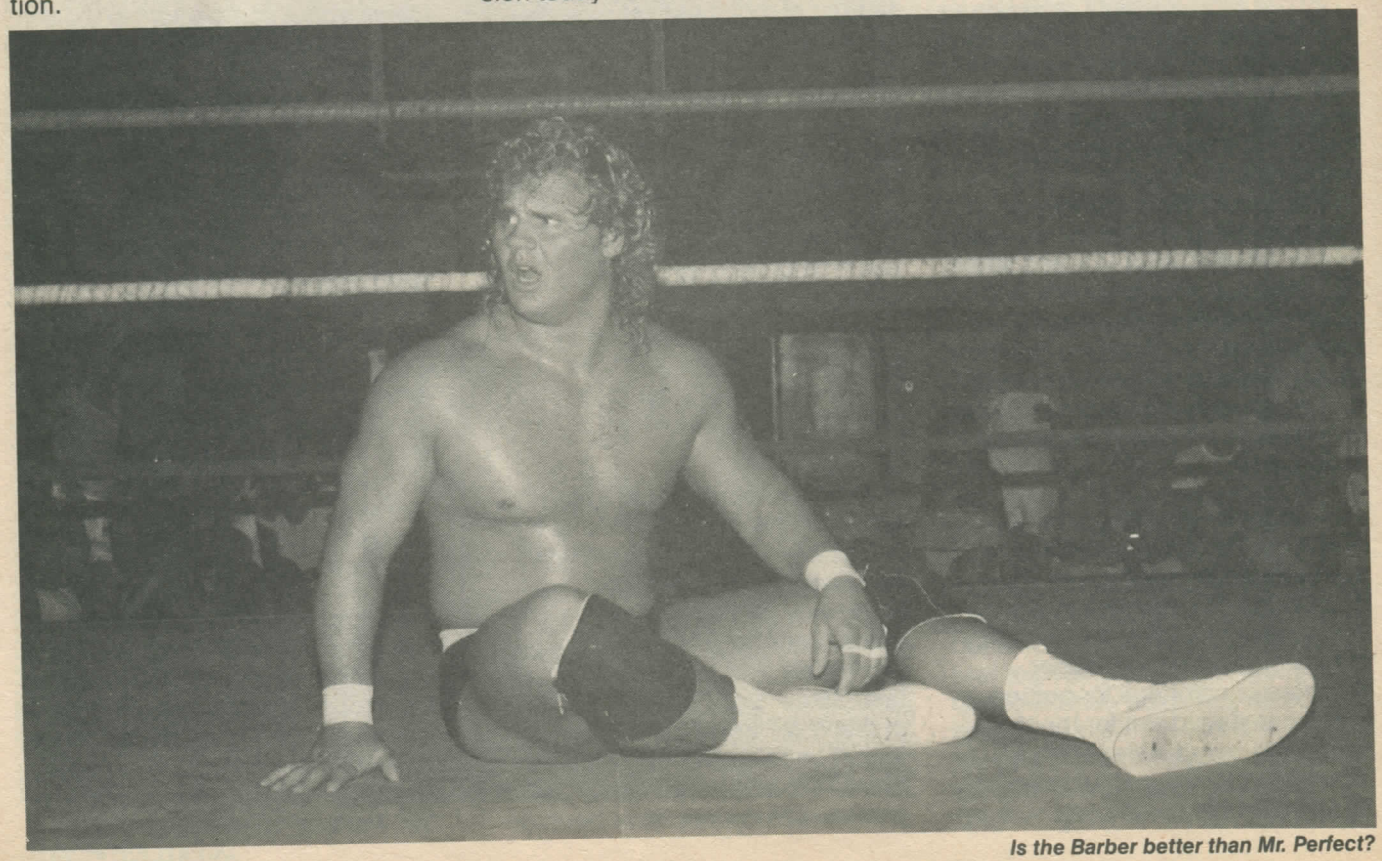
ring is on his mind. Some see the Hennig-Beefcake encounters as a changing of the guard, the question circulating the most, "does 'the Barber' have what is needed not to give up his standing in the wrestling community?" That's what the series of matches between them will determine.

During their initial meeting, "Mr. Perfect" didn't stray from his moniker. The Syracuse, New York War Memorial Auditorium housed a capacity 7,000 fans to see up close, just how much energy they could release to drain one another, yet retain enough to come out on top. Appearing a bit rusty and off when it came time to applying the abdominal stretch and a flying dropkick, Hennig picked up on his foe's deficiencies immediately. Wrapping up "The Barber" in several small package holds and dropping him to his back with "fireman carries," the confidence felt by Hennig appeared obvious as he smiled throughout their abbreviated yet exciting ten minute meet. The end for "The Barber" came, through frustration, when he unloaded a right fist to Referee Frankie Adams' mid-section. An automatic rule violation, it was Hennig 1 and Beefcake 0, due to the disqualification.



Curt listens to his favorite tunes.

"I made the drive down from Buffalo especially for that match and, like the fans, didn't go home disappointed. Hennig isn't the biggest guy in the heavyweight division today but he makes the most out of his 6′ 2″ 235 lb. frame. Even during parts of the match when he was on the receiving end of Beefcake's punches and chops, Hennig's confidence didn't appear to be shaken. He is patient and ex-



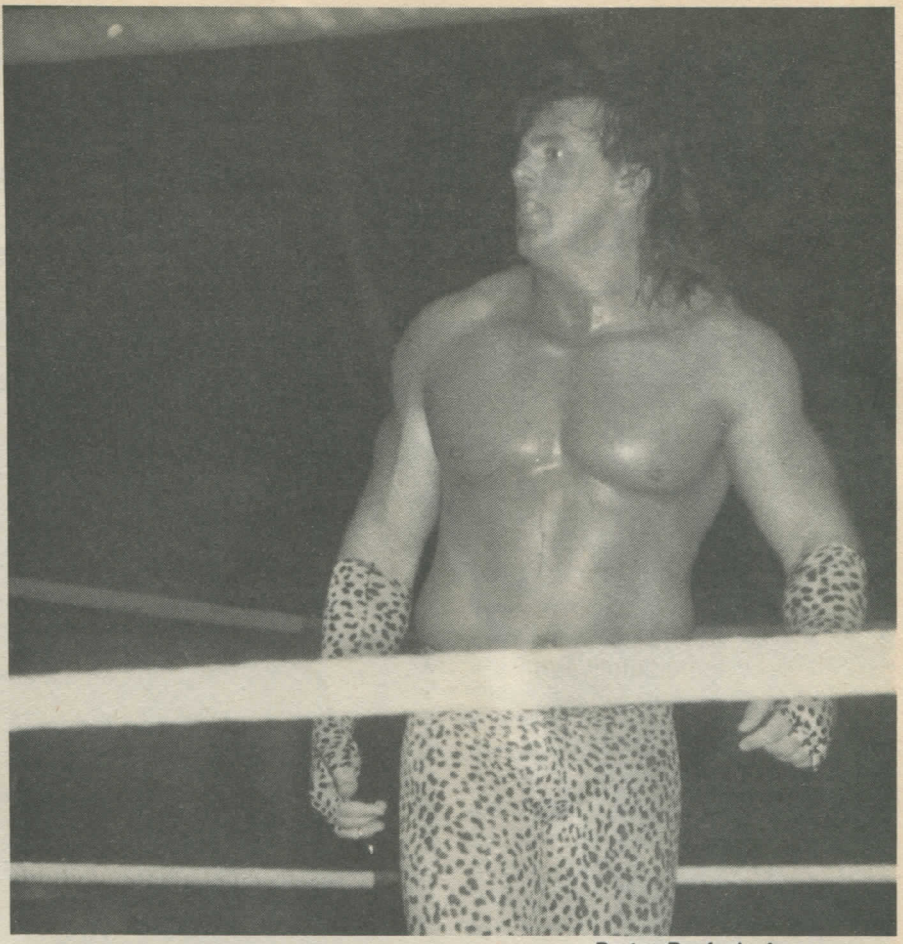
Is the Barber better than Mr. Perfect?

tremely methodical. Everything he does in the ring has a purpose and he doesn't waste needed energy. In the final outcome, I would have to say 'Mr. Perfect' will come out ahead in his feud with Beefcake," former World Heavyweight Champion Dick Beyer analyzed.

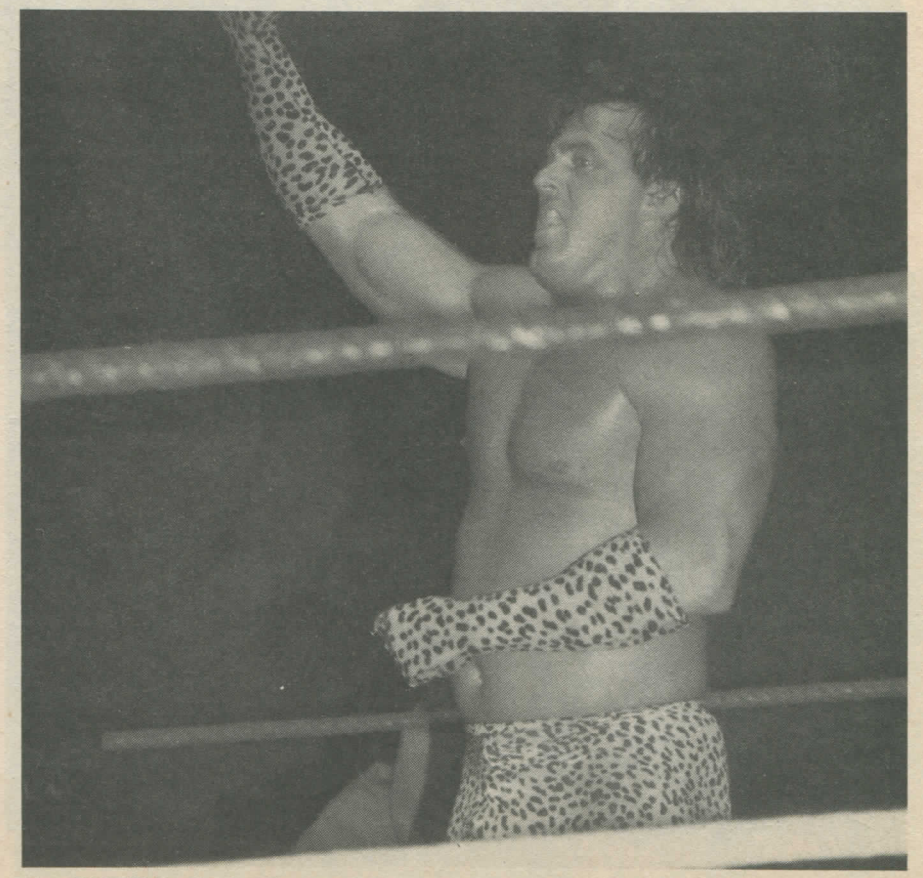
One fact that can be counted on in the Beefcake-Hennig war is that the WWF will profit handsomely. Already there is a major bidding war erupting by arena managers for the much hyped clash. Box-office sell-outs are expected from coast to coast. One reason, among many to ensure the matches widely reported on will be Beefcake's getting nasty, chucking away his "Mr. Nice Guy" image, to get down to Curt's bunkhouse brawling attitude. Before indulging in his barbering, Brutus was managed by Johnny Valiant. Along with Greg Valentine, Valiant teamed Beefcake with him to lead the pair to the WWF Tag Championship. Perhaps getting back to the tricks taught to him by Valiant will be the needed edge he's looking for to march him on to victory.

On the other hand, Hennig is as mean and ornery as ever. Still fuming over losing his AWA title to Jerry Lawler in Memphis, Tennessee last spring, that one flaw on his record has motivated Hennig to do all he can to reinforce perfection on his part, in and out of the ring. To improve Beefcake's chances of beating Hennig at his own game, and to rely less on strength only as in the past, and more on finesse, Beefcake has secured the services of WWF standout Tim Horner, regarded as one of the best schooled wrestlers in the sport today. Tim has been assisting Brutus in adding new holds to his repertoire.

Both Curt Hennig and Brutus Beefcake have a great deal to learn by dominating the other. Beyond the money, which is sure to be lucrative, their pride is working overtime to keep a place for them among the top ten rankings. There's no time for hot dogging or not playing each match-up as conservatively as possible. One mistake by either athlete could be career threatening. There are no manager, valets or advisors to affect the outcome of their challenges. This feud could very well be the best action the Federation offers in 1989.



Brutus Beefcake fears no man.

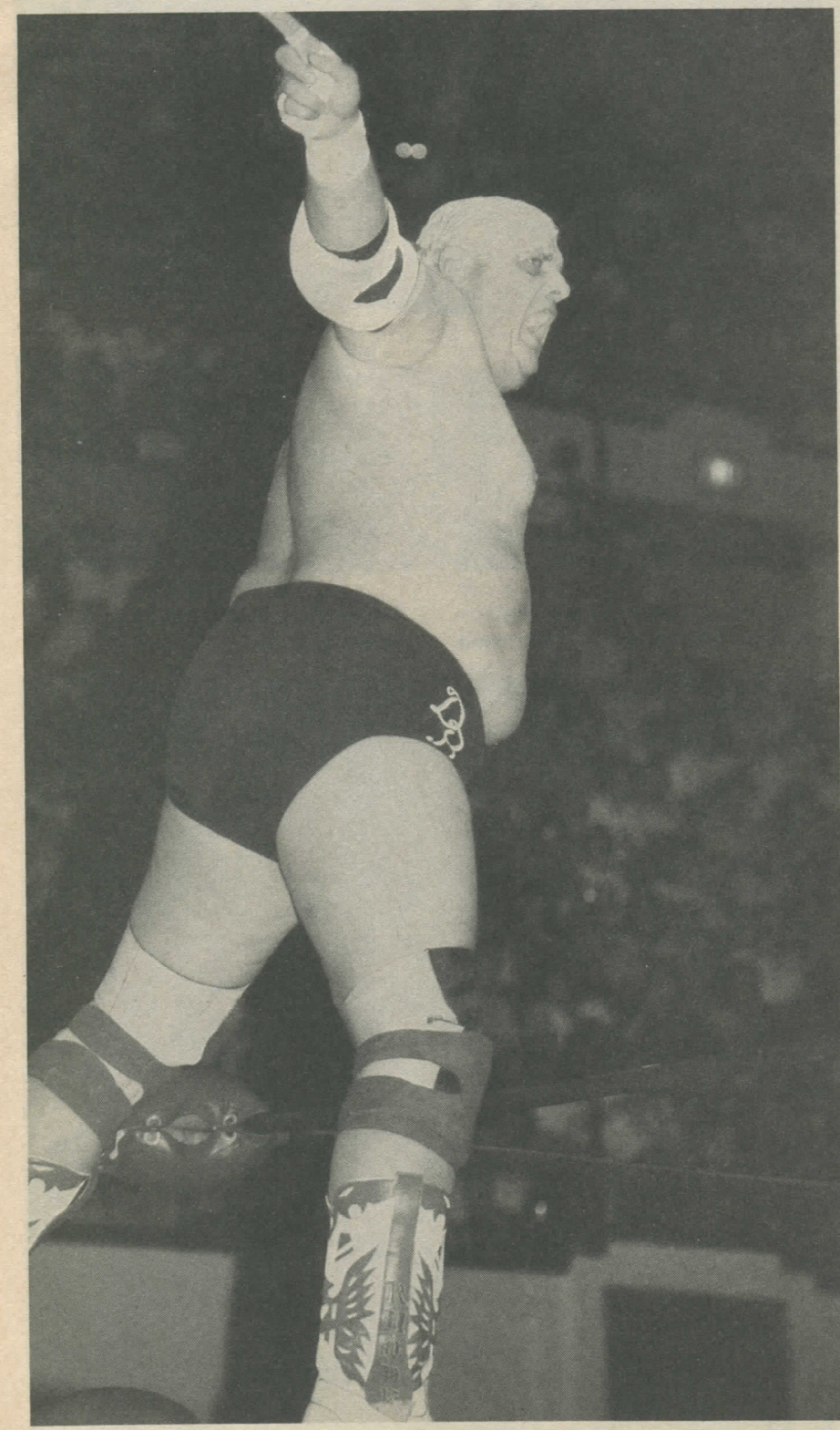


Hey. I KNOW I'm the best!

DUSTY RHODES

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By Don Liable

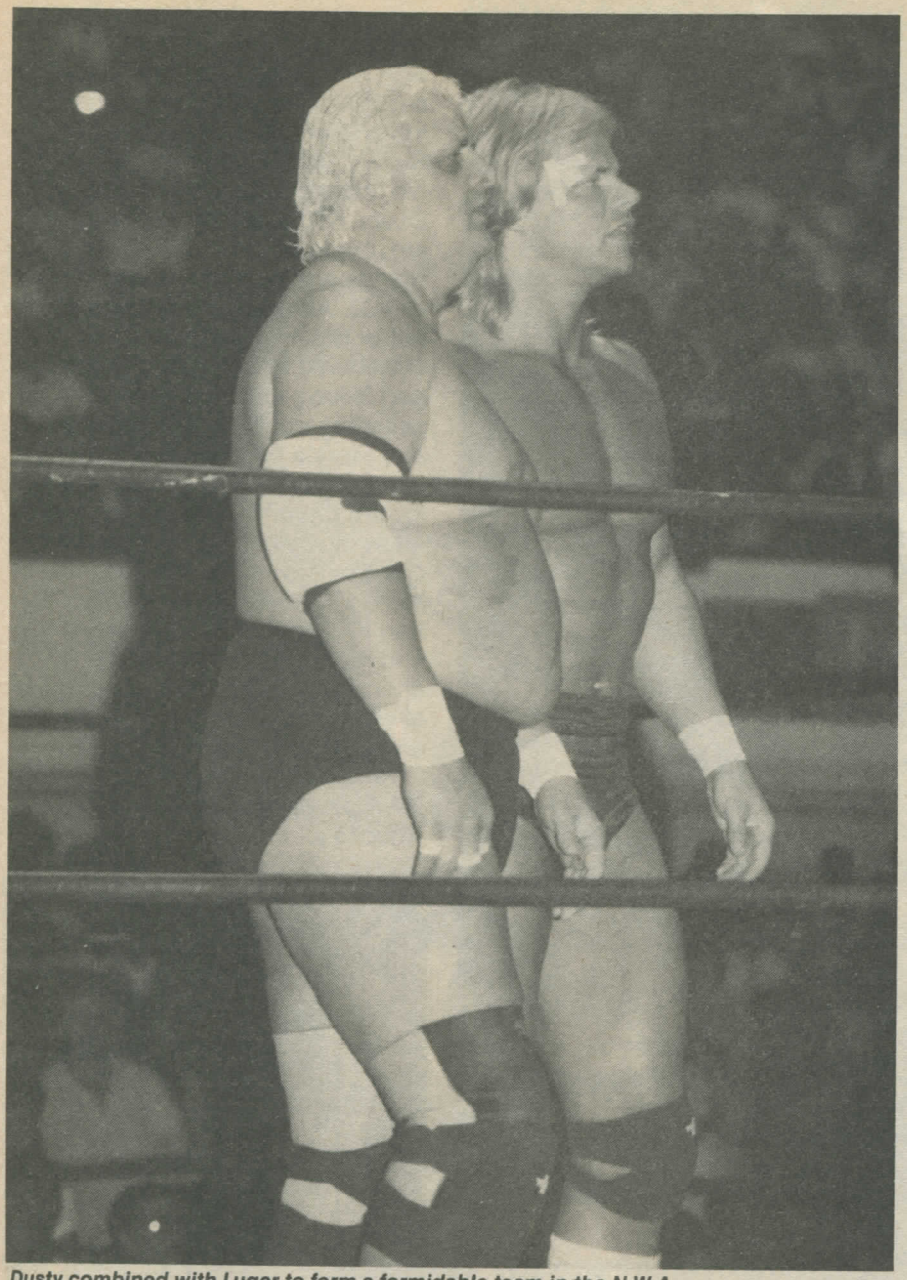


The American Dream was always outspoken

There are some things you can always seem to count on. Spending time at the beach during the summer will always be a popular pastime. Wishing for a white Christmas is on the minds of nearly every person during that special holiday season. Dusty Rhodes, better addressed by millions of mat fans worldwide as "The American Dream," keeping law and order among the ranks in the National Wrestling Alliance has been counted on for the past fifteen years. Well, perhaps taken for granted is a better way to sum up his years of service in the most prestigious wrestling organization in North America. No longer will Dusty chase the wild, unorthodox competitors. "The American Dream's" patrol in the NWA has come to a halt.

The entertaining climate of sunny Florida is where his skills will now be put to work campaigning for Florida Championship Wrestling. There's no doubt that in time he'll put his new employer on the wrestling map as a bonafide major league of professional wrestling. In retrospect, only a handful of grappling legends can look back at a glorious career in the NWA as Rhodes is able to. He didn't always win pretty and the rulebook wasn't always respected but the bottom line remains, "The American Dream" got the job done. He produced.

Although his career has been a glorious one, the past three years in the NWA were a bit unstable, as far as a majority of the fans were concerned. At times Rhodes was out of shape, overweight. The horrendous travel requirements leave little time for wrestlers to attend gyms on a regular basis. Unlike those competitors that have opted for chemicals to enhance their physique, Rhodes battled the best, naturally. Don't fool yourself, the big Texan can wrestle. Some

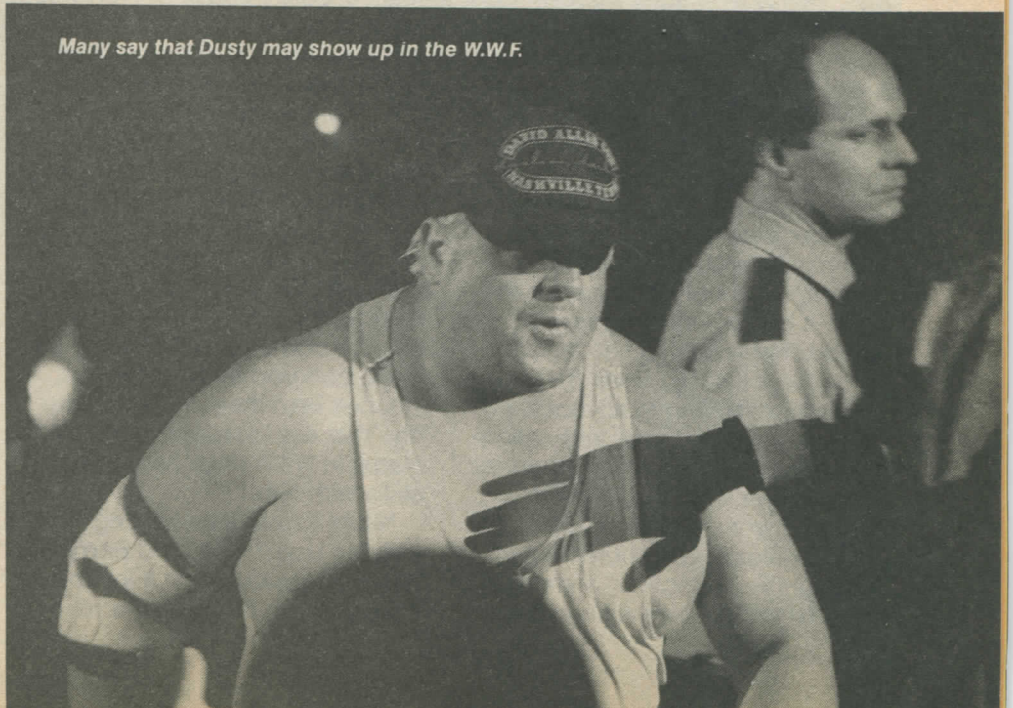


Dusty combined with Luger to form a formidable team in the N.W.A.

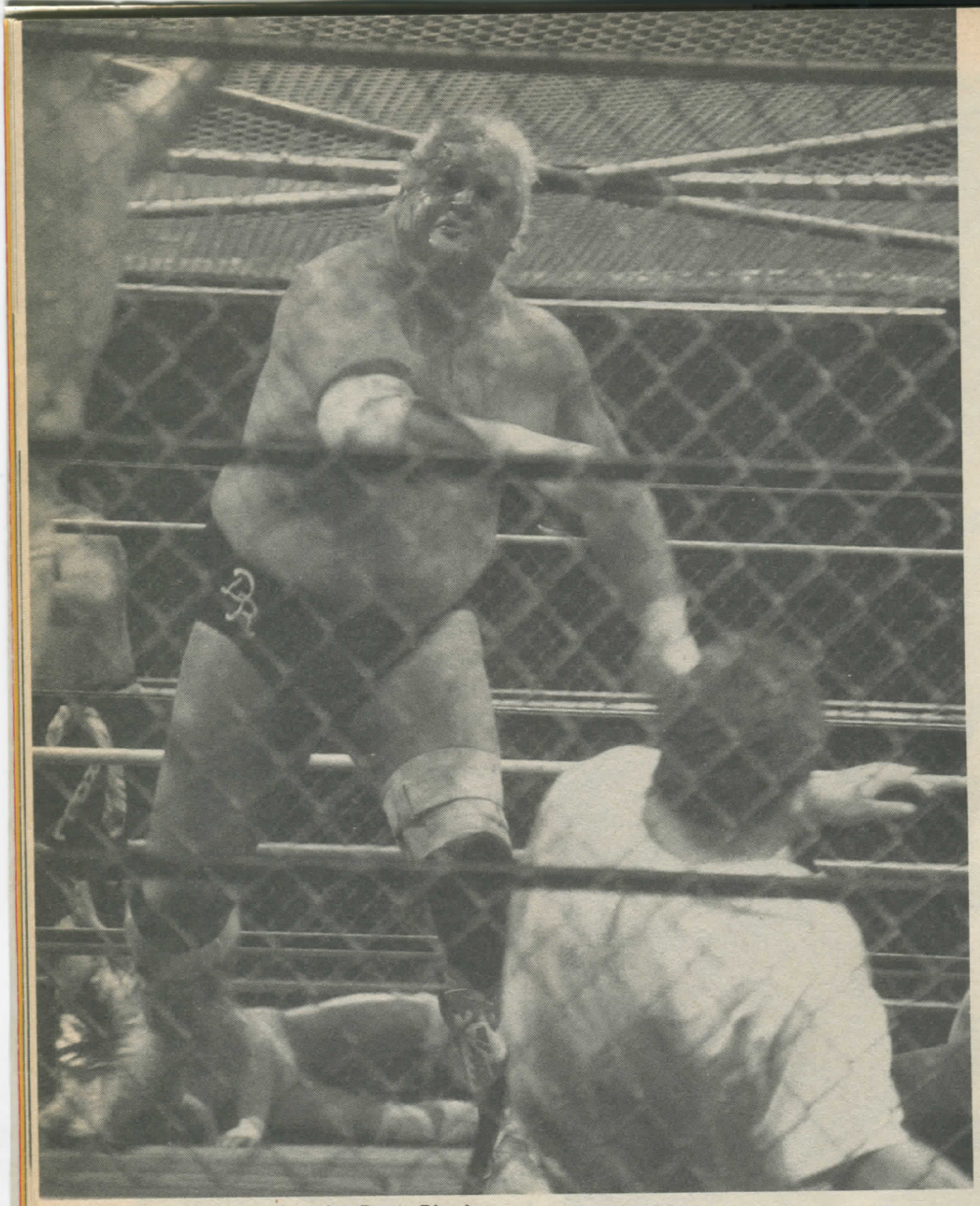
matches have given him more incentive, more motivation to display his best moves. Larry Bird in basketball or Dwight Gooden in baseball, recognized superstars in their professions, have exceptional outings on occasion but it is consistency that has put them in an elitest group. The same goes for Dusty.

Mat action in the confines of Florida Championship Wrestling should rekindle the spark, get the emotional juices flowing once again to a level that everyone has grown to associate with big Dusty's greatness. And it's not as if he's going into a totally new, uncharted venture. Rhodes is reuniting with friends from several years back. Gordon Solie, the Dean of Wrestling Announcers, handles the commentating chores for the FCW telecasts, Mike Graham and Steve Keirn, all household wrestling names in the "Sunshine State," will be in the same ring as Rhodes. Dick Slater, an opponent of many years to "The Dream," will no doubt do all he can to get another match with him.

Right up until his January departure from the NWA, Dusty was in the thick of the major happenings. It's safe to say, "The American Dream's" trophy case is filled to capacity. The one question to ask concerning his affair with the NWA, is there any award he didn't harness? The World Heavyweight Championship was his as was the United States Title. Along with the Road Warriors he co-held the World Six Man Tag Title and the big bronze boot that symbolizes winning the Bunkhouse Battle Royal finals was presented to him three years in a row, and last, but certainly not least, with Nikita Koloff as his partner, the Crockett Cup and the accompanying one million dollar winner's check became his. "He's been a big brother to me. When I wrestled, Dusty was always there to root me on. He helped me prepare for some of my more difficult challenges, such as the barbed wire match I had with Tully Blanchard in Charlotte, North Carolina. After my auto accident, he stopped by to visit me in the hospital more than anyone else. When I was released from the doctor's care, it was Dusty who persuaded the promoters to find an



Many say that Dusty may show up in the W.W.F.



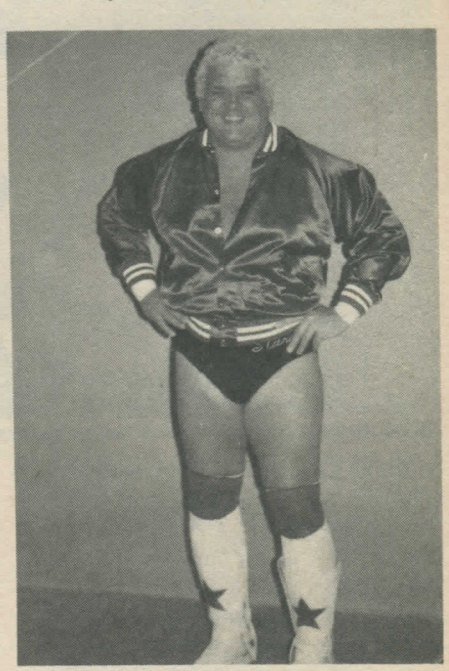
A bleeder, a brawler, Dusty Rhodes

announcing position for me. People can say what they wish about him but I'll defend him until the cows come home," Magnum Terry Allen stated.

Wherever his tours took him, from coast to coast, the charisma of "The American Dream" could only be matched by Hulk Hogan. Whether building up a match he was having with an opponent of the magnitude of Lex Luger or Ric Flair, in his own exciting way, Rhodes knew how to get through to the fans. He has never had any problem in relating to all races, educational backgrounds and nationalities. It was in the most important annual events such as "War Games," when teams of five were pitted against one another in two rings totally enclosed in a steel cage, where Rhodes rose to the occasion and put on memorable feats of agility and skill. His opponents in those barbaric matchups were, for all intensive purposes, arch rivals of his, The Four Horsemen, comprised of Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson and Barry Windham, led by their advisor James J. Dillon. In 1988 they pushed Dusty to his limit. They cut him open, publicly slandered his family and attacked him in arena parking lots. With use of his "bionic" elbow smash and fancy fist work, battered and stitched up, Rhodes kept them in place. Anyone that ever reached celebrity status in NWA rings had to test skills with him.

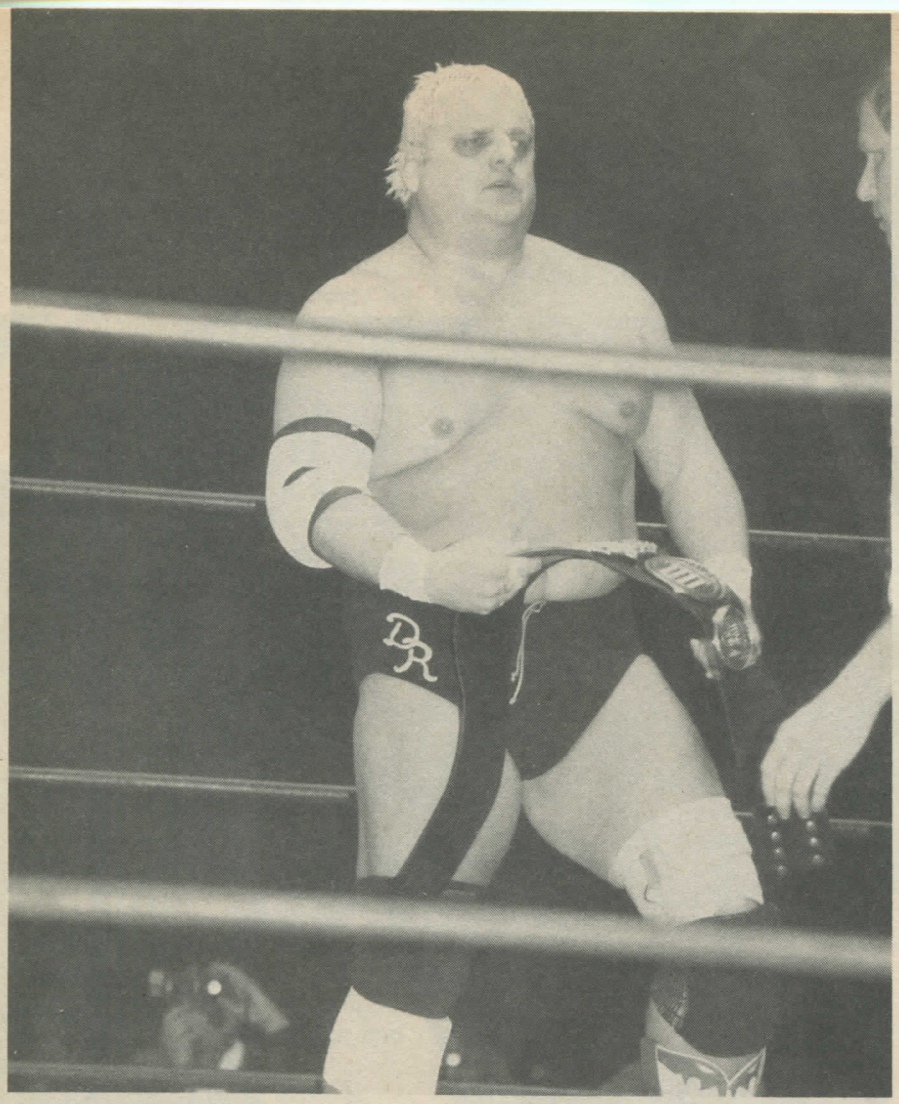
Nikita Koloff, after parting ways with his Uncle Ivan, and Barry Windham, was taught a lot about what goes on between the ropes by Dusty. In Nikita's situation, he was introduced to talented coaches who taught him to use more than just his "Russian Sickle" hold. Pride was an intangible installed in the Russian by Dusty. Nikita became more outgoing, made a whole new circle of friends and flourished in main events. Although Barry Windham's father Black Jack Mulligan is remembered as one of the most rugged fellows to put on a pair of wrestling trunks, wrestling in Texas and Florida kept him away from his son for great lengths of time. Dusty looked upon himself as a surrogate father and watched over Barry closely. The years of experience in having it out with brawlers as Killer Karl Kox, Pak Song, Ole Anderson and King Curtis, gave Dusty enough savvy to warn his protege of what type of hold to expect in any given situation.

Before his departure from the NWA, Dusty's eldest son Dustin Rhodes joined the organization's



A youthful Rhodes.

roster. For a brief period Dustin teamed with Kendall Windham and they were billed as "The Texas Broncos." With matches against veterans like "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton and Al Perez, Rhodes, Jr. should do well for himself in FCW rings. Dusty is eagerly awaiting the day that he and his son can climb in the ring as a twosome. "We aren't going to do it for the sake of our scrapbooks. The right oppo-

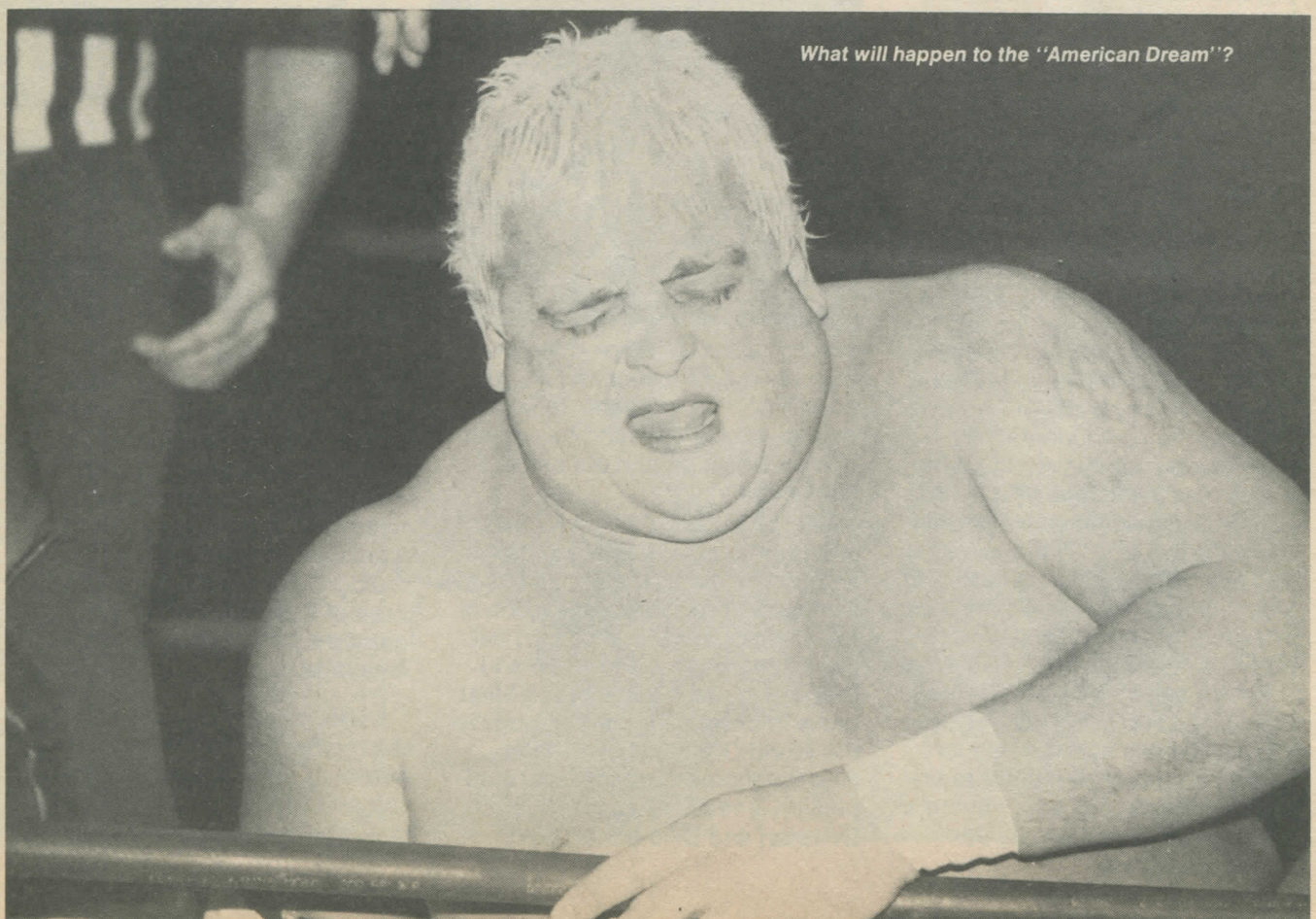


Former N.W.A. World's Champ

nents and a meaningful situation have to come across to us for the contract to be signed. Ric Flair and Barry Windham, man, we would take those two dudes on for nothing. What an explosive match it would be," Dustin said from Tampa, Florida.

There was wrestling life in the NWA for "The American Dream" before his recent split with Crockett Promotions. Paul Jones, The Masked Superstar, Ken Patera, Gene Anderson, all headliners in the Mid-South and Central States region, with promotions under the NWA banner, fell victim to his determination to stay on top of the competition. Dick Murdoch, who at one time stood side-by-side with Dusty as "The Texas Outlaws," saw his career and personal wealth rise dramatically due to the wisdom and talent of his partner.

Always displaying his pride in being an American, the son of a plumber did the best possible job that he could. Cheating the fans out of their hard earned money with which they purchased tickets, was always the furthest thought from his mind. Like him, hate him, or have no opinion of him at all, you won't have Dusty Rhodes to kick around anymore.

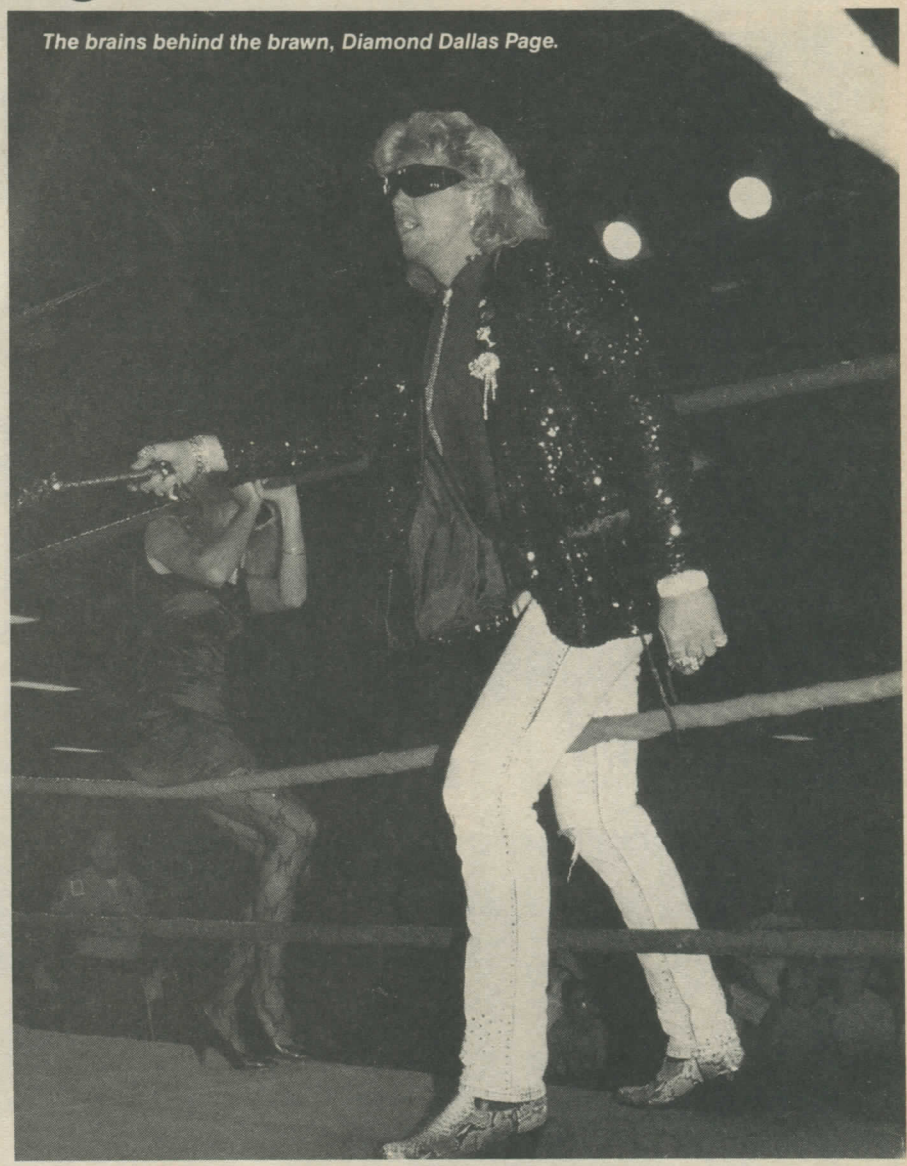


What will happen to the "American Dream"?

Pat Tanaka

A Profile in Courage

By Don Laible



The brains behind the brawn, Diamond Dallas Page.

His success in professional wrestling has confused many observers. In this era of the sport, there is a majority of fans and a pocket of promoters that are under the illusion that size is everything. Pat Tanaka is a fine example that an athlete need not be a mammoth muscle man to earn respect, admiration and championships. At 5′ 9″ 200 lbs., Tanaka has destroyed the theory that height or weight will dictate how far a wrestler will progress in the sport. There are many bigger competitors in the heavyweight ranks who haven't accomplished what he has. Granted, there are some mat experts who feel Pat's talents would be best served in the junior heavyweight ranks, and those claims aren't without merit. However, during the past four years as a pro, the one thing he has never done is torn down a challenger based on their physical stature. No special favors have been asked for, nor have any been given by Pat Tanaka. Through learning from experience and listening to advice from fellow pros with thousands of matches under their belts, he has become wrestling's "little big man."

Some officials of the American Wrestling Association have labeled him a bully and a sneak. There's not much to deny from those allegations. Pat Tanaka will do whatever is called for to have his hand raised in victory by the referee. Thus far the fiery Oriental has no complaints as to the direction his career has taken him. With Canadian Paul Diamond as his partner, the AWA Tag Team Championship has been his to claim. Tanaka and Diamond didn't just walk into the title picture. The Rockers: Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels lost the AWA belts to them in Las Vegas. Since capturing the championship, Tanaka hasn't opted for growth hormone chemicals to enhance his bulk. No, after getting a taste of the lavish lifestyle bestowed upon a champion, he's become even meaner and more punishing to opponents. Tanaka's martial arts background has aided him greatly in getting out of tough jams in the ring.

"First off, I want to say for the one hundreth time, or at least it seems that many, I'm no relation to Professor Toru Tanaka. He's one of the all-time greats in the sport but our last names are the same and that's as far as it goes. When I first broke into wrestling my bookings in the World Organization of Wrestling taught me what top level competition is really all about. Bob Sweetan and Dino Minelli were brutal guys to mix it up with in the ring. They stretched and pulled me all over the ring. I remember the mistakes made back then, you won't catch me making them again. Another wrestler who gave me trouble in my first couple of years on tour was Nikki Leathers. You don't hear much about the three of them but believe me, I learned a lot by opposing them," Tanaka said.

It was in the Memphis, Tennessee region, for the Continental Wrestling Association, that the name Pat Tanaka became known throughout wrestling territories in

the United States. His matches with Jeff Jarrett are still talked about by hard-core mat fans. Both similar in size, it seemed that they spent as much time in the air, weakening each other with leaps and jumps off turnbuckles and ropes, as on the canvas. They were engaged in one brawl that saw them take their action out of the television studio where the match was being taped right into the station's parking lot. "Superstar" Bill Dundee of Australia arrived back into the CWA when Tanaka aligned himself with Diamond. There has been some ongoing negotiations between the promotional powers of the CWA and AWA to finally get Tanaka and Dundee in the ring, one on one.

However, with the hectic touring schedule provided by the AWA, that much anticipated challenge match appears to be on hold for the time being. New Haven, Connecticut, Union, New Jersey, Sacramento, California and Minneapolis, Minnesota are just a few of the stops where Tanaka has appeared in one week's time defending his half of the AWA tag title. The Rock 'N Roll Express: Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson, five time National Wrestling Alliance tag titelists, tried their best at adding the AWA title to their resume but came up empty for their efforts. When the four met, by mid match there weren't but a handful of fans left sitting on their chairs. Tanaka, although not a fa-

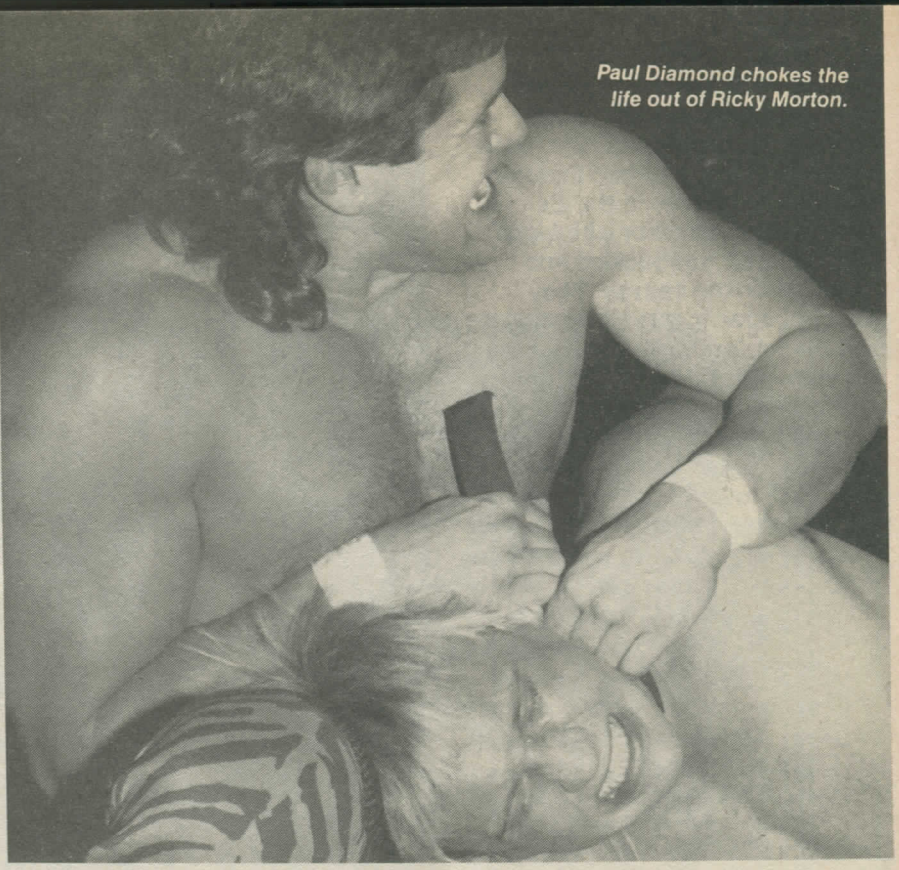
Manager of Badd Company, Diamond Dallas Page along with rock superstar, Jon Bon Jovi.

Will Tanaka soon see solo duty?

vorite among the audiences for his questionable tactics employed during his time in the ring, had them stunned as he singlehandedly wore down the Express with leg-sweeps, arm-drags and head-butts. Being able to dictate the tone of the pace in matches with Morton and Gibson is a feat to be proud of. They are among the best going in the pro ranks today, then again Pat Tanaka is not your average grappler either.

Defending the AWA tag belts keeps him busy but Pat is plotting strategies for an offensive march on Greg Gagne's AWA Television Title. Only a dozen or so pounds heavier and a couple of inches taller than Tanaka, Gagne appears to be the ideal athlete on which to mount an attack. When AWA President Stanley Blackburn finally gets the two seated down for the contract signing, you can bet fans will start placing orders for tickets within minutes. "In due time, all the gold straps sanctioned by the AWA will be hung around my main man Tanaka. When he kicks his opponents, either in the stomach or head, when they come charging into him off the ropes, the thrust is unbelieveable. For a small man, he connects with the force of wrestlers fifty to seventy pounds heavier than he. You won't find anyone admitting it but there are several top names in the AWA who flat out won't face Tanaka. They come up with excuses, but the bottom line remains, he's bad to the bone and afraid of no man," "Diamond" Dallas Page, Tanaka's manager, proclaimed.

One of the few times as a pro that Pat Tanaka lost his cool was when he, Diamond and former AWA Womens Champ Madusa Miceli faced The Top Guns: Ricky Rice and Derrick Dukes, along with Wendi Richter in Chicago on the SuperClash 3 extravaganza. Due to Richter pinning Miceli, Tanaka's team lost the match and fortunately for them, only the women's title changed owners. That match sparked a fire between Tanaka and Diamond with The Top Guns. Since that embarrassing encounter in the "Windy City," Dukes has fallen victim to Tanaka in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Ricky Rice has been hesitant to pick up where his partner left off. Perhaps he is waiting for Tanaka to cool off from what resulted in Chicago, hoping his guard will be let down just enough to making a costly mistake and possibly lose the match.



Paul Diamond chokes the life out of Ricky Morton.

He excelled in the amateur ranks in karate and has carried over that winning edge in the wrestling world. No boots to shield his feet, Tanaka is a double threat to challengers as he uses them as his hands. Wrestlers really have to study him carefully before coming up with an offensive plan. "Pat is as tough as shoe leather and packs a bang in his fists and feet like a stick of dynamite. I'm glad we're friends," Tommy "Wildfire" Rich said in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Known for presenting quality athletes, the AWA pulled off a coup in signing up Pat Tanaka to a contract. Determination and dedication continue to push him on to being one of the most decorated wrestlers in North America today.

Along with Paul Diamond, Tanaka formed a great team, but could he do better on his own?

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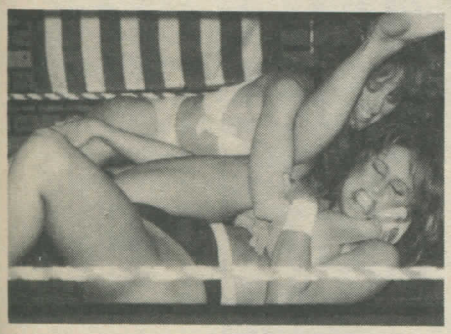

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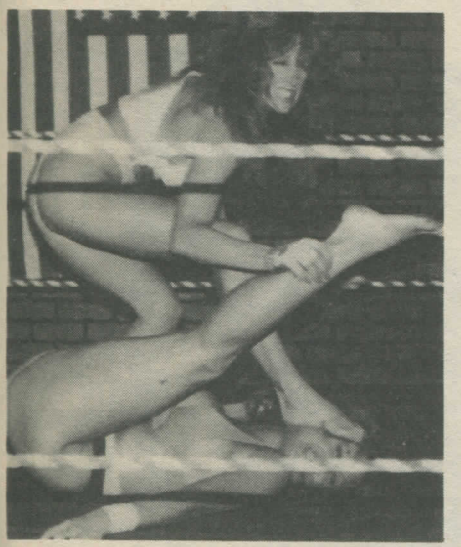

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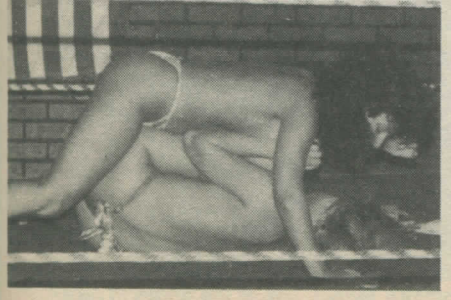
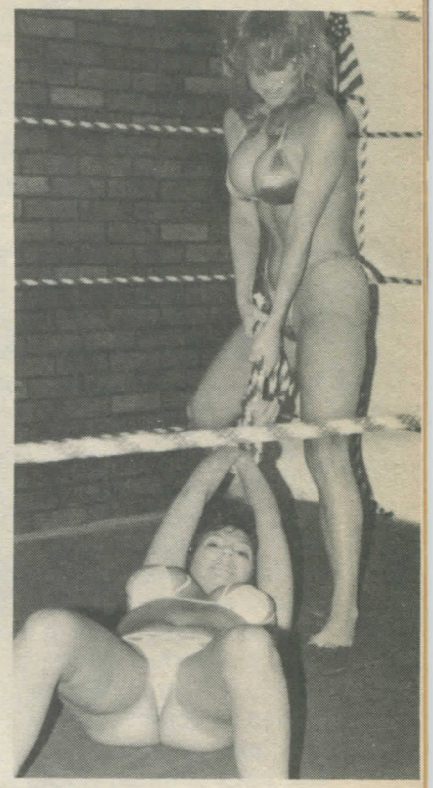
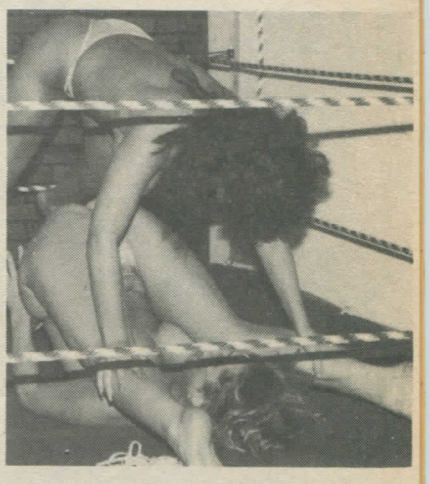
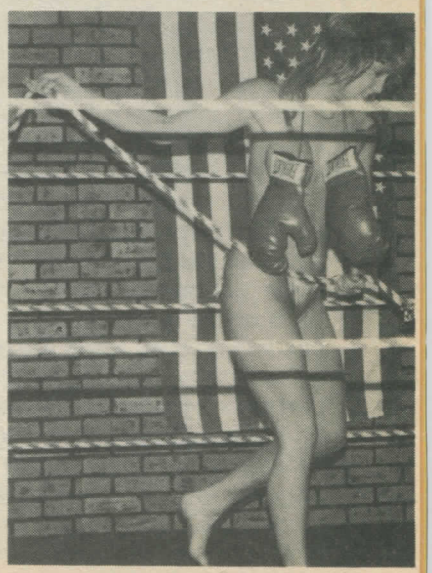








EAST MEETS WEST IN KANSAS CITY

BY DON LAIBLE

Who says the Japanese are out dueling the Americans? Economically and technology wise there may be some tension between the two countries but not in athletics. Far from it. Hands down, the greatest professional wrestlers in the world are competitive in the United States. A perfect illustration being the top U.S. grapplers being signed to lucrative contracts by the two major promotions in Japan to tour several weeks a year for them. In a twist of international respect and admiration, Japan's finest mat men came to North America in search of quality opponents. They weren't disappointed. What a treat for the fans in Kansas City, Kansas' Memorial Hall to see up close and in person the superstars of the All-Japan promotional organization. February 2, 1989 will be a day those in attendance will forever cherish.

Perhaps the added incentive for both American and Japanese wrestlers to put in the best possible performances in Memorial Hall was that all matches were taped for airing in the Orient by TV Asia. World Wrestling Alliance President Bob Geigel, who also enjoyed some of his finest days on the mat in Japan, represented Lord James Blears, Commissioner of the Pacific Wrestling Federation and acted as the host of the show. Unlike a number of American promotions where entrance music and flashing colored lights are pushed as part of the ensuing match itself, that wasn't the case in Kansas. There were no strutting, joking or "showboating" going on in the ring. If a wrestler didn't have the credentials as an accomplished athlete in the "squared circle" they wouldn't have been invited to the much heralded spectacular.

Autograph collectors and trivia wizards would have had a field day at the program. There were more former world champions present that evening than ever before in one location. A virtual who's who were on hand. Dory Funk, Jr. and his brother Terry, both former National Wrestling Alliance Heavyweight titlists, former American Wrestling Association champs Stan Hansen and Jumbo Tsuruta,

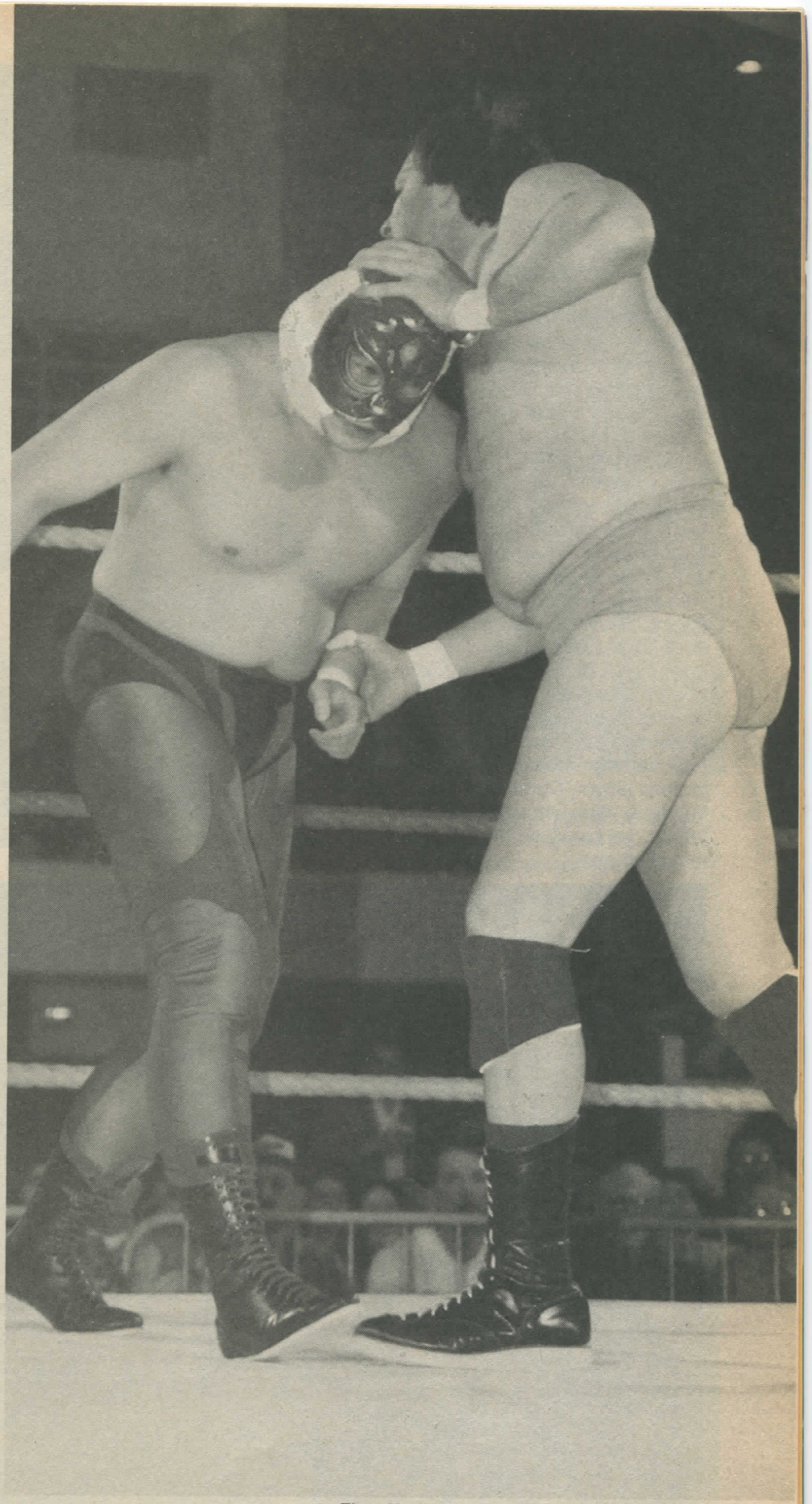
Genichiro Tenryu, one of the greats in Japan.

and Giant Baba, Pat O'Connor, and Harley Race, who at one time in their careers wore the NWA belt, were all together. Wrestling, refereeing, managing, whatever role each former champ filled, they did so with the same class and dignity as when they stood above their competition in their division.

With all the international talent in Memorial Hall, the tag contest pitting the Rock 'N Roll Express: Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson against the British Bulldogs: Davey Boy Smith and The Dynamite Kids received the most attention. At one point in their respective careers, the Express in the NWA and the Bulldogs in the WWF, not only held their respective organization's tag team titles, but were the most high flying, acrobatic duos the sport had to offer. It took Japanese promoters to put the four in the ring at the same time as opponents. A thirty minute draw was the outcome. Both teams determined for the victory began wrestling out of the mold to which the fans have been accustomed. More kicks, punches and suplexes outside the ring became prevalent as the battle ensued.

Tempers flared to a point where the Bulldogs were actually booed by those in the Hall. There are many followers of the British tandem who hope the rulebreaking antics they displayed that evening was an isolated incident. Davey Boy tired Morton down, during one point in the match with continuous forearm smashes to his back, and when referee Pat O'Connor offered a break in the action, had to resort to threatening the Englishman with a fine before his wishes were obeyed.

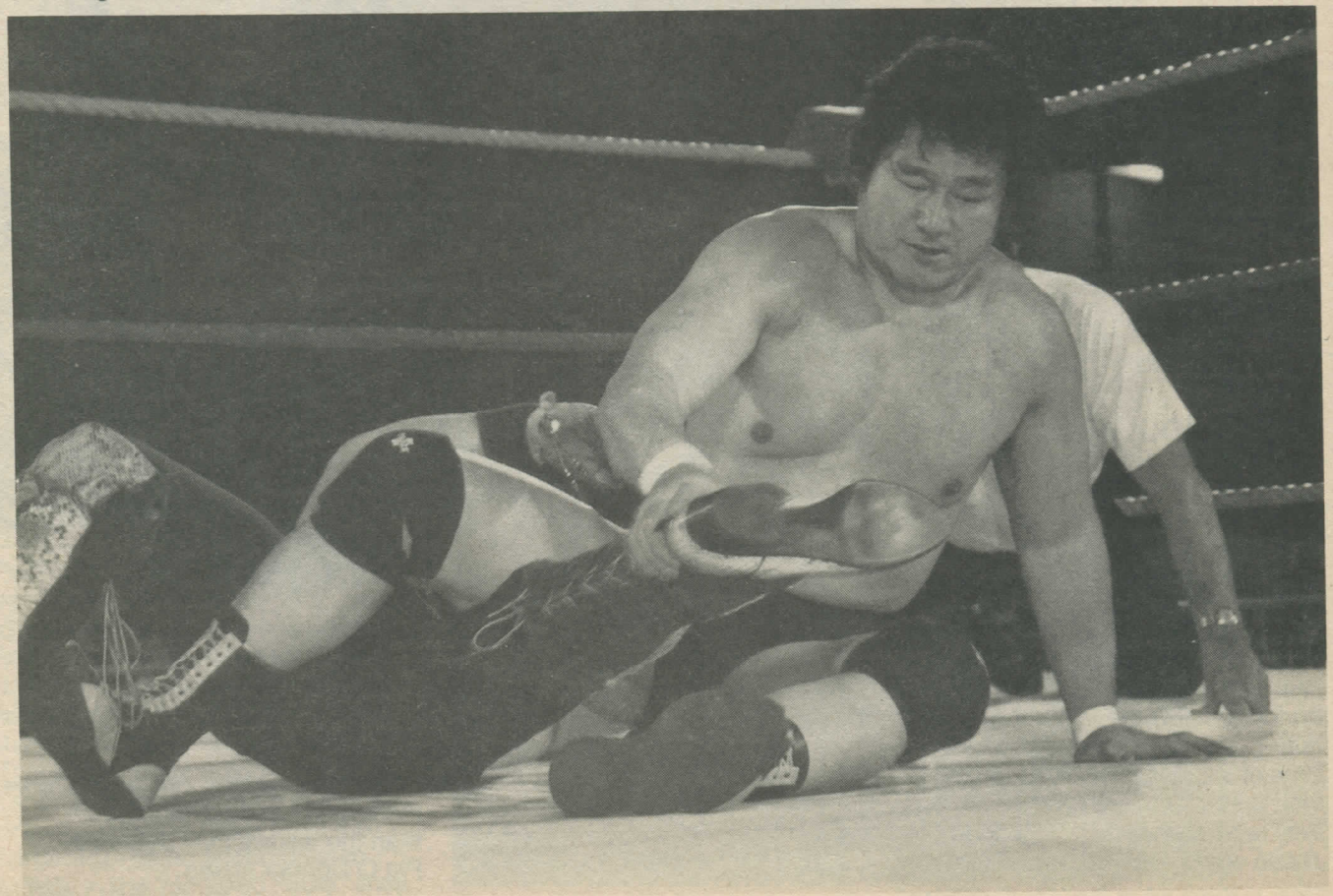
Terry and Dory Funk, Jr. racked up another win as a unit in easily doing away with "Pretty Boy" Doug Somers and "Gorgeous" Garry Young. For nearly two decades the Funk brothers have been main eventers in Japan. With an impending tour of the Orient in the winter, those seated at ringside said without reservation that the brothers put a little more into their outing, knowing full well that millions of Japanese fans would view their performance. "You bet they're all pumped up to head to Japan again. Terry looked in the best shape he has in the last five years. Just looking at them it's easy to tell they've been spending more hours in the weight room than the fellows they defeated," Pat O'Connor stated.



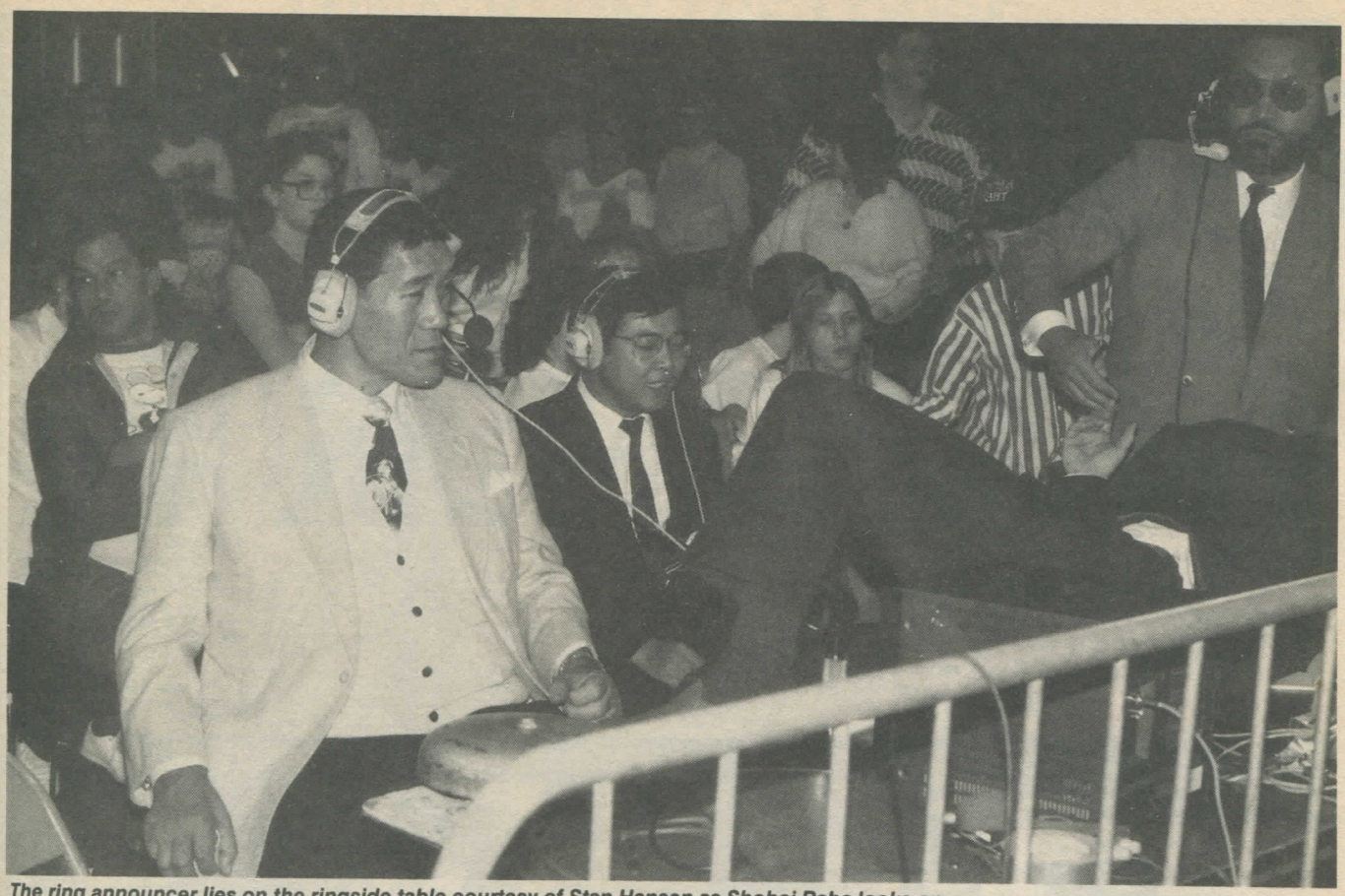
Tiger Mask comes to grips with Tommy Sharpe.

The world famous Tiger Mask, Genichiro Tenryu, Akio Sato also came away victorious in Kansas. Tiger Mask pinned Tommy Sharpe in less than ten minutes. There isn't much the famed masked man can't do in between the ropes. Flying drop kicks off the top turnbuckle and reverse suplexes kept the fans in awe of his talents. "Wild" Bill Irwin, more of a brawler than a wrestling tactician, couldn't overpower Genichiro Tenryu. Judo chops to Irwin's chest kept him off balance and on the defensive for most of the fifteen minutes they exchanged holds. Tenryu, who has teamed up with the Road Warriors in past six man tag affairs, finished his Texan challenger off with a "power bomb" leap off the top rope. In adding to the impressive showing by the Japanese contingency, Akio Sato made it three for three for his fellow countrymen by downing Curtis Hughes with a kick to his opponent's jaw. Putting Hughes down like a bag of bricks is an incredible feat in itself. Being a former high school All-American football player, Curtis is used to being the person who does the heavy hitting, not being on the receiving end.

Tsuruta twists the arm of Stan Hansen.



Tenryu ties up the legs of Wild Bill Irwin.



The ring announcer lies on the ringside table courtesy of Stan Hansen as Shohei Baba looks on.

More important and exciting mat action continued to flow. Jumbo Tsuruta and Yoshiaki Yatsu captured the Pacific Wrestling Federation tag team title by beating Stan Hansen and Terry Gordy. Hansen's lariat clothesline and Gordy's "Oriental Spike" hold, on that particular night, were no match for the arsenal of holds thrown at them. From bell-to-bell, chairs, tables, guard rails, anything the American duo could send airborne at their challengers, became just that. The end came as Tsuruta put Gordy down for the three count with a backdrop.

Mike George, a native of Kansas and current World Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champ put his laurels on the line against another local, Steve Ray. George, a veteran who has taken his lumps from the likes of Cowboy Bill Watts to Verne Gagne, is a gifted enough athlete where he can give an opponent a tough time with Greco-Roman and free style moves, as well as the holds permitted in the pro ranks. Wrestling only two years, Ray was simply over matched. On several occasions the young man handled his opponent through the ropes and tried to wear him down in slugfests. Although both men ended up being counted out of the ring, both were pleased with their showing, especially George, since his title didn't change hands.

In an area rich in wrestling tradition, from the late Promoter Gus Karras to "Bulldog" Bob Brown, the Japanese invasion for one night added to the credence that the Central States is a haven for wrestling greats to expect only the finest competition. The fans left the Hall petitioning the local promoters to bring back the stars of All-Japan Wrestling as soon as the schedule can be worked out. The Japanese were somewhat shy about their presence and didn't inject much glamour to the program, they just put their opponents through a workout that will be etched in their minds for years to come. One evening, for a change it wasn't New York City, Los Angeles or Chicago being the focal point of pro wrestling, it was Kansas City, Kansas. All the smiles and handshakes exchanged in Memorial Hall did more for the two countries' relationship than politicians could have ever done.

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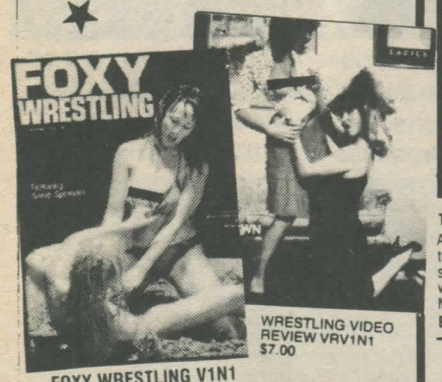

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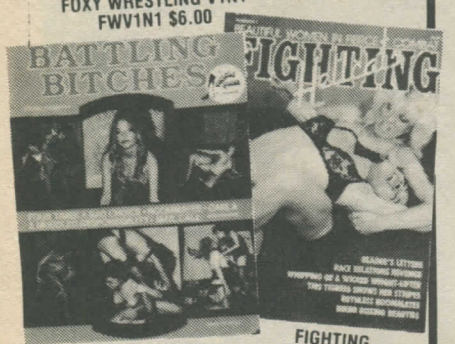

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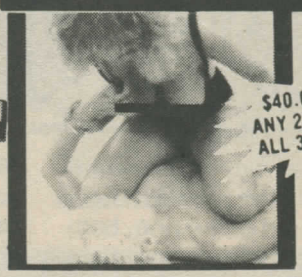

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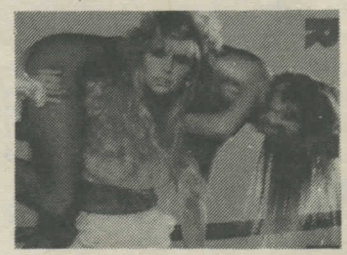

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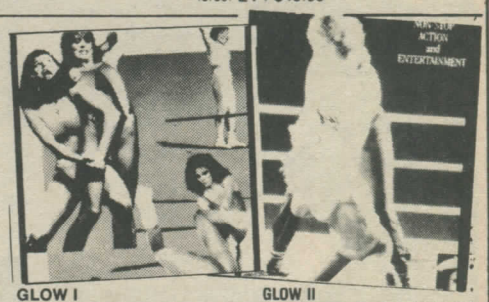

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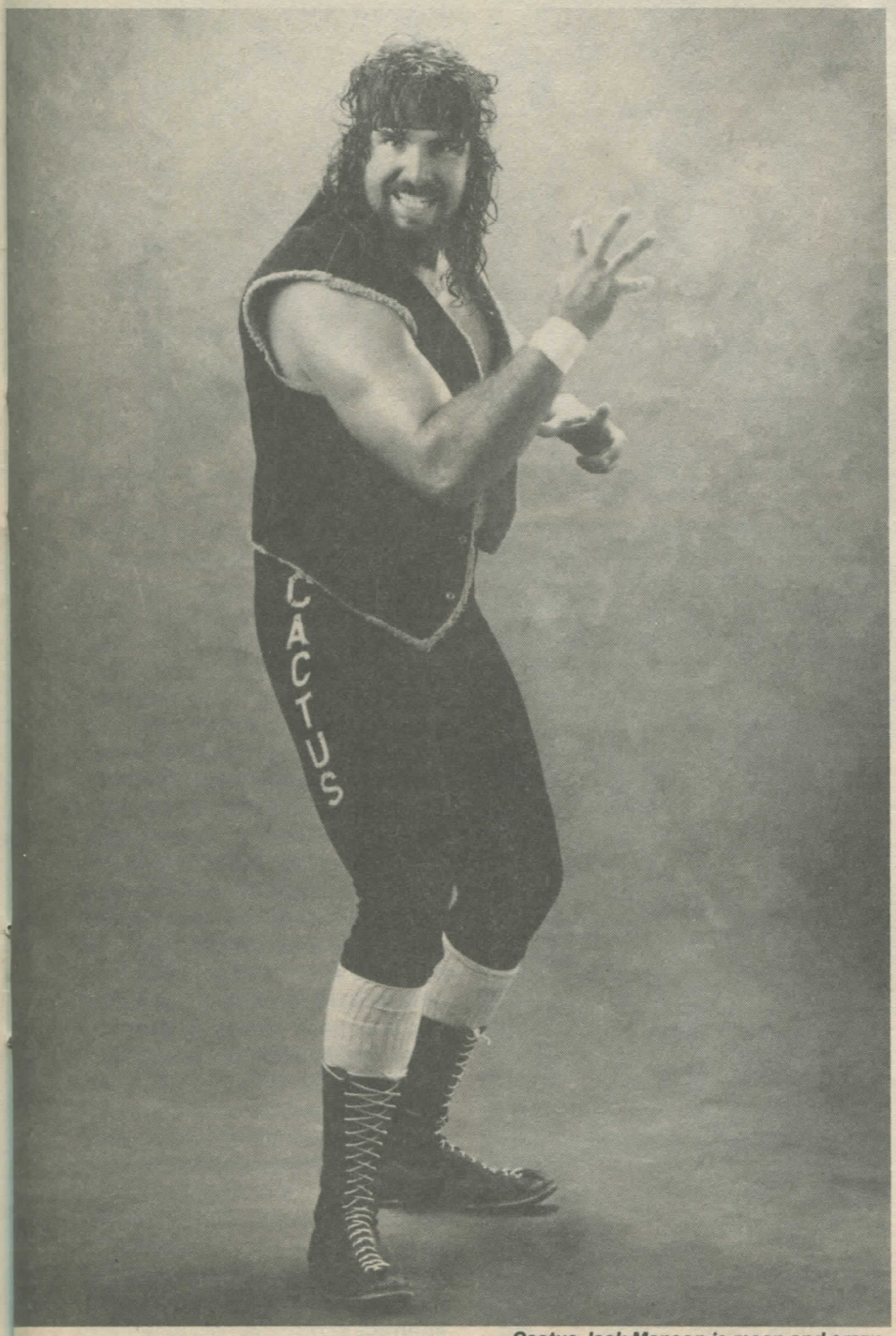
LUNATIC ON THE LOOSE

CACTUS JACK MANSON

BY DON LAIBLE



Cactus Jack Manson is mean and crazy.

When describing his actions, the words "lunatic" and "maniac" are used frequently to present a clear picture. Professional wrestling has had its share of uncontrollable individuals whom many people strongly felt should be removed and placed in an institution for therapy. George "The Animal" Steele was a loon between the ropes. The late "Bruiser" Brody ignited more riots during his career than arena managers care to remember. The Sheik's mysterious fireballs thrown from seemingly nowhere into his opponent's faces resulted in fans showering the ring with all sorts of debris. Now campaigning in Tennessee and Texas is a competitor who makes the other wild men of the ring seem to be nothing more than a bit hyperactive. Cactus Jack Manson has opened an umbrella of fear over participants in the World Class Championship Wrestling and Continental Wrestling Association that has never before been experienced. His uncontrollable seizures of terror has culminated in making him the top target of some of the organization's most gifted grapplers. Manson wouldn't have it any other way, he's in constant search of the very best competition.

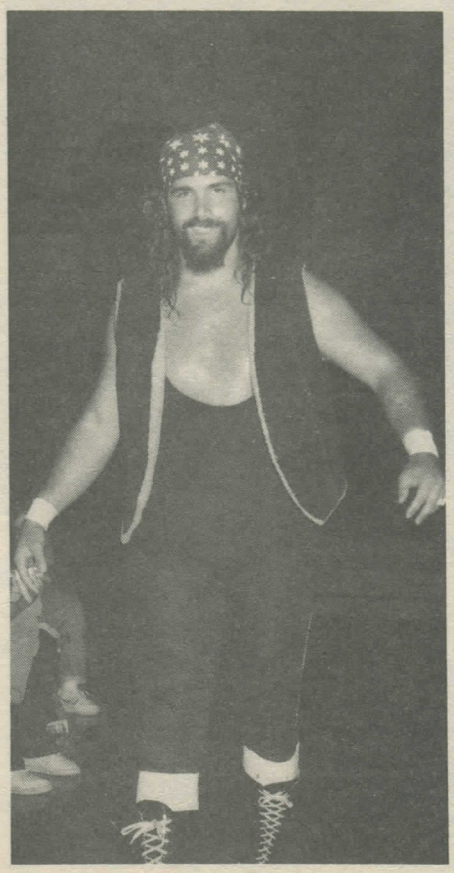
He has an impressive wrestling background. One would think the attractive monetary rewards would be enough of an incentive for the Syracuse, New York native to be as enthusiastic and prepared for each match as possible. In most wrestlers' situations that could be true. Cactus Jack Manson is far from being categorized with most wrestlers. The word normal most definitely is taboo when discussing his involvement in the sport. While fellow wrestlers go through last min-

Bleeding profusely, Cactus Jack makes his way through the crowd. (photo by Pam Preston)

ute preparations in their dressing rooms before their matches, whether exercising, lifting weights or planning strategies, Cactus Jack can be found regularly sitting alone in a far off corner with a note pad writing a letter to his idol, the infamous Charles Manson.

It is through his correspondence with the California inmate that he gets his ambition and adrenaline pumping to go into the "squared circle" and not only come away the victor but mauls his challengers to the point that a stretcher ride back to the first aid station is required. "Cactus Jack is one of the most bizarre fellows ever to step into a ring. During the past forty years I've seen many wild characters come and go in this game but Cactus is right up there with Bull Curry and Abdullah the Butcher. He chased me with a steel chair during a match that I was refereeing. You think I told him he was disqualified? Hell no, I jumped through the middle rope and left ringside," Bronko Lubich said.

It was veteran superstar Dominic DeNucci who spotted the talent



Don't let this angelic look fool you.

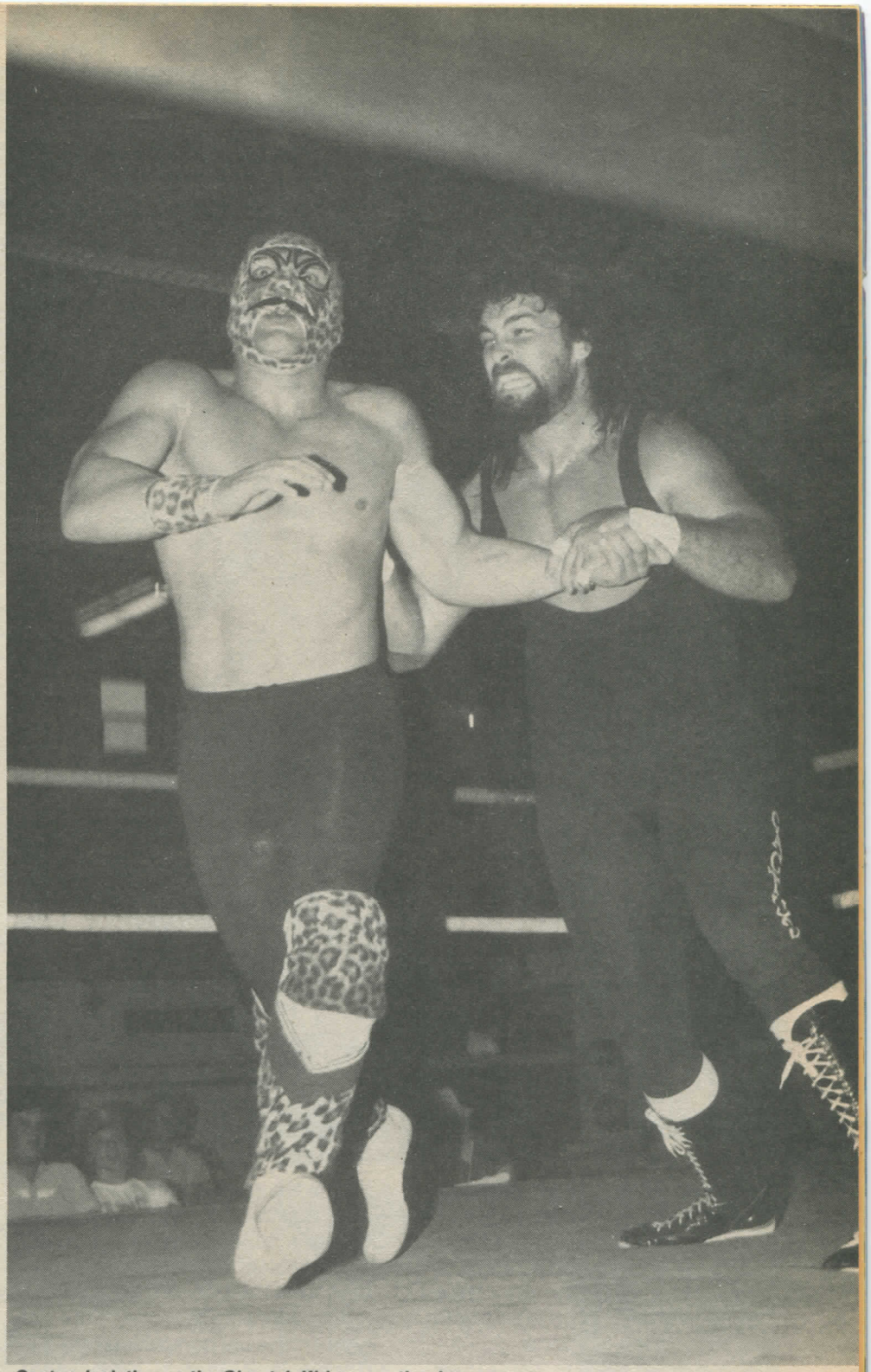
and worked with Cactus Jack to bring along his potential. When serving his mat apprenticeship in Freedom, Pennsylvania, he was billed as Cactus Jack Foley. The deer skin vest he wears into the ring and the whip he carries were with him since his first match. The difference being, then they were basically security blankets, things to keep him occupied while awaiting the timekeeper's bell to begin his match. Now, they are weapons, pure and simple. More times than not Cactus Jack will wrap his vest around his unsuspecting victim's face and attempt to smother them until threatened with suspension. The whip also serves as a strangling device when not being extended across the back of his challengers. When questioned about his barbaric actions, Cactus Jack refers to the letters allegedly received from his corresponding leader and states, "Orders are to be carried out, not questioned."

The change in attitude and his then mild mannered ring behavior seemed to go down hill when Promoter Eddie Marlin of the Mem-

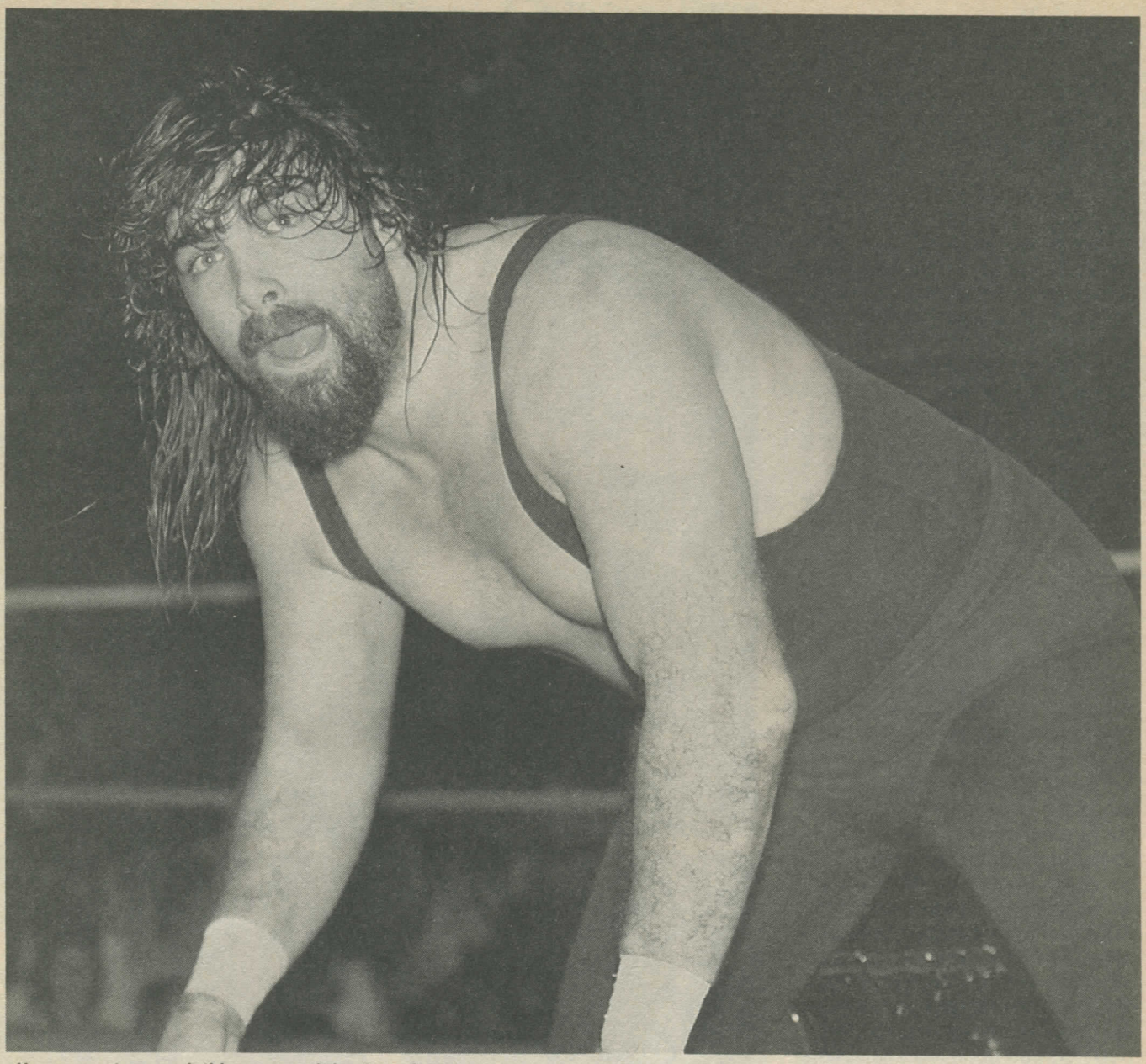
phis, Tennessee based CWA signed him to a contract in the Fall of 1988. Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden, leaders of the "Studd Stable" recruited him among the ranks of their wrestling family. Throughout the South, there were no tougher or talented collage of wrestlers. With "Gorgeous" Gary Young, Phil Hickerson, Manager Downtown Bruno and valet Sylvia rounding out the remaining members of the "Stable," Cactus Jack became less conscious as to the opinions and advice given by those outside of the clique and concentrated more on collecting the winner's share of each purse. Greed and power were now his main motivators. Matches with muscle man Scott Steiner and Brickhouse Brown, himself a former member of the "Stable," saw Cactus Jack spill a lot of blood, sprain his knees, dislocate fingers and his left shoulder, however the will and necessity to win at all costs installed within him by Fuller made it clear that a new personality had taken over.

The ring success experienced along the independent circuits on the Northeast followed Cactus Jack south. Doing as he was instructed and with no reservations all his trust was placed in Robert Fuller's hands. Perhaps too much blind trust. Discrepancies over allegations that the leaders of the "Stable" were taking more of Cactus Jack's earnings than previously agreed upon led to a splintering among some of the members. Garry Young sided with Cactus Jack. They didn't leave under the best of terms from Fuller's boys. When Cactus and Gary won the CWA Tag Team Title in November of 1988, the jealousy and anger among the "Stable" was vented in front of a television audience in a sneaky and sadistic manner. Jumped from behind while being interviewed by CWA Announcer Lance Russell, Cactus Jack and Young were beaten and had their foreheads ripped open, courtesy of the "Studd Stable's" bashing the metal championship belts on them repeatedly.

In search of new challenges to conquer, Texas' World Class Championship Wrestling was where Cactus Jack Manson would set up shop next. Before he could settle in his Dallas apartment, Skandor Akbar, recognized as an international managerial genius, sent word to set up a meeting between them. "Hey, I would have done the same thing, Cactus Jack is a talented athlete who's going to capture a ton of world titles before he retires, but he's too unpredictable," "Freebird" Buddy Roberts explained. The first singles championship has found itself the property of Cactus Jack. At 230 lbs., the last belt the majority of wrestling people thought possible for him to possess was the World Lightweight title, but it did happen. As recognized by the WCCW and CWA rules committees to attract a wider variety of talented individuals to the weight classification, the original limit of 220 lbs. was raised to 230 lbs. After capturing the title



Cactus Jack throws the Cheetah Kid across the ring.



You can rest assured, this man won't be down for long.

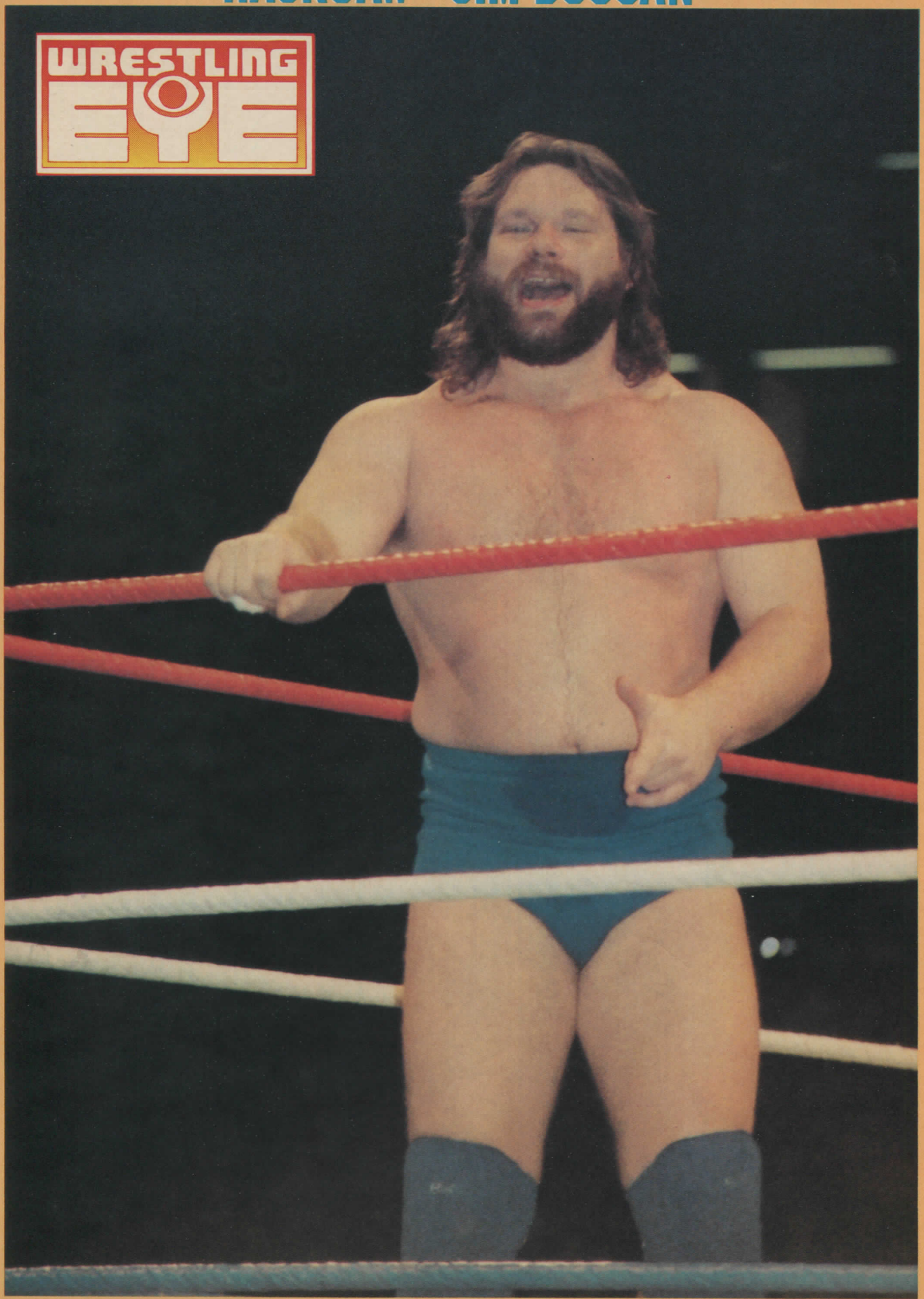
in Dallas' Sportatorium, Jeff Jarrett and Eric Embry continue to be his top competitors. Even after losing the lightweight laurels, Cactus Jack and his manager are concentrating their efforts on riding both out of the sport for good.

From Tennessee to Texas their feuds have been hot topics of discussion with even the casual wrestling followers. During a rematch in Fort Worth, Texas between Embry and Cactus Jack, staying true to form, Akbar supplied the "extra" insurance for his celebrated protege to once again come out on top of Embry. While Referee Bronko Lubich was preoccupied with Buddy Robert's presence at ringside, Skandor flipped a cowboy boot to Cactus Jack who jumped off the top rope and rammed it squarely into his defenseless challenger's head. Down on his back like a sack of bricks, Embry was pinned in the non-title encounter.

The lightweight title isn't the only goal on the list comprised by Cactus Jack Manson. Kerry Von Erich's reign as WCCW Heavyweight Champion may be abbreviated if he gets his way. While involved in a six man tag match against the Guerrero Brothers on the SUPER CLASH III extravaganza with the Rock 'N Roll RPM's teammates, Cactus Jack carefully observed and took notes and Akbar videotaped the clash pitting Jerry Lawler and Von Erich. Not as muscular or powerful as the Texan but certainly as wise and talented as the son of legendary mat great Fritz Von Erich, Cactus Jack has done all that can be expected to earn a shot at the coveted title. The next move must come from the Von Erich camp, should a showdown take place. Always on the move during his matches, Cactus Jack has proven to be a tough target to get a fix on.

Cactus Jack Manson has shown the wrestling world that he can absorb punishment as well as dish it out. Not the biggest but always trying harder than the rest is what has propelled his career with just three years in the pros ranks. Perhaps only being cut off from receiving his mail from California can be Cactus Jack Manson's downfall.

"HACKSAW" JIM DUGGAN



JIM CORNETTE

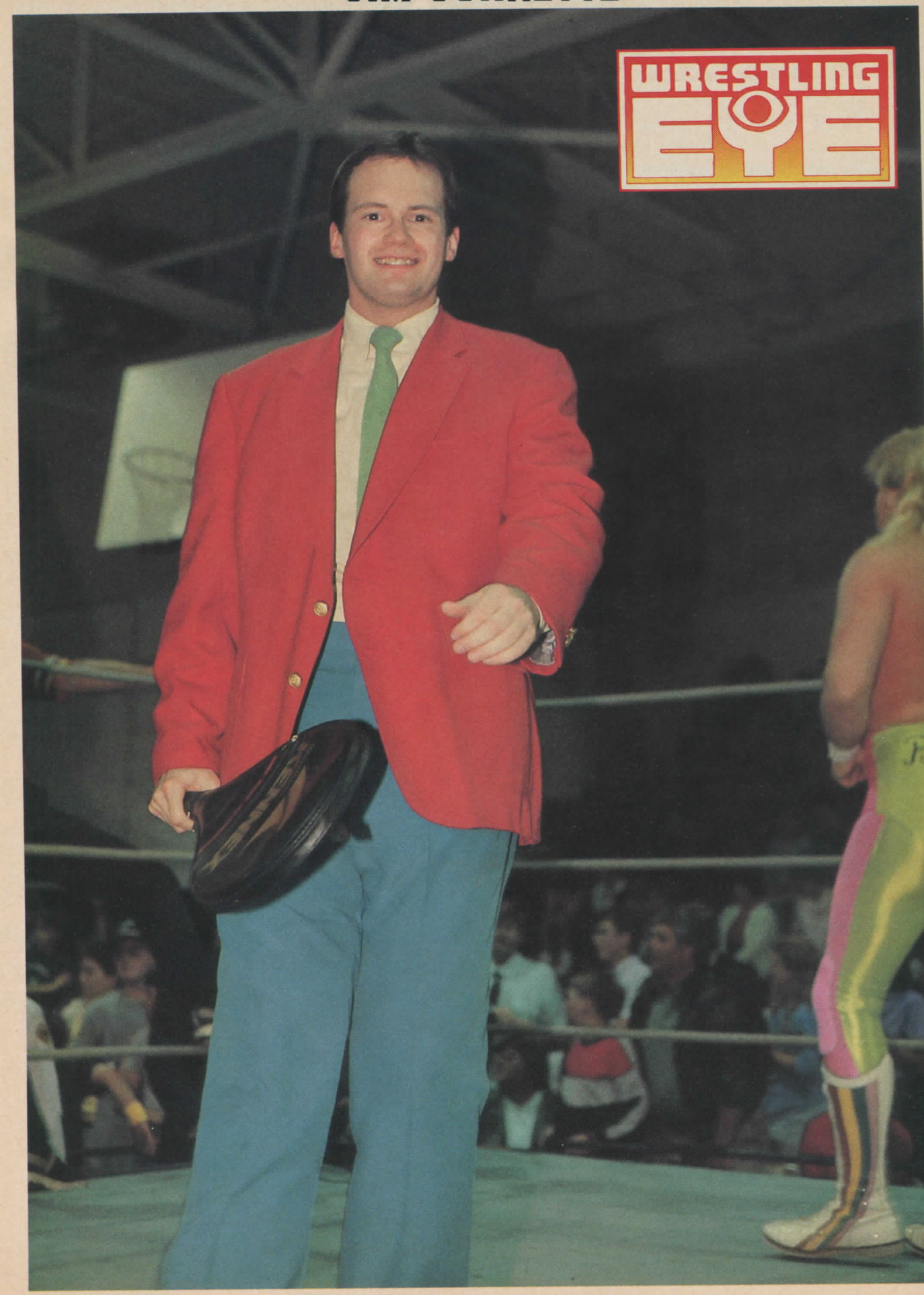
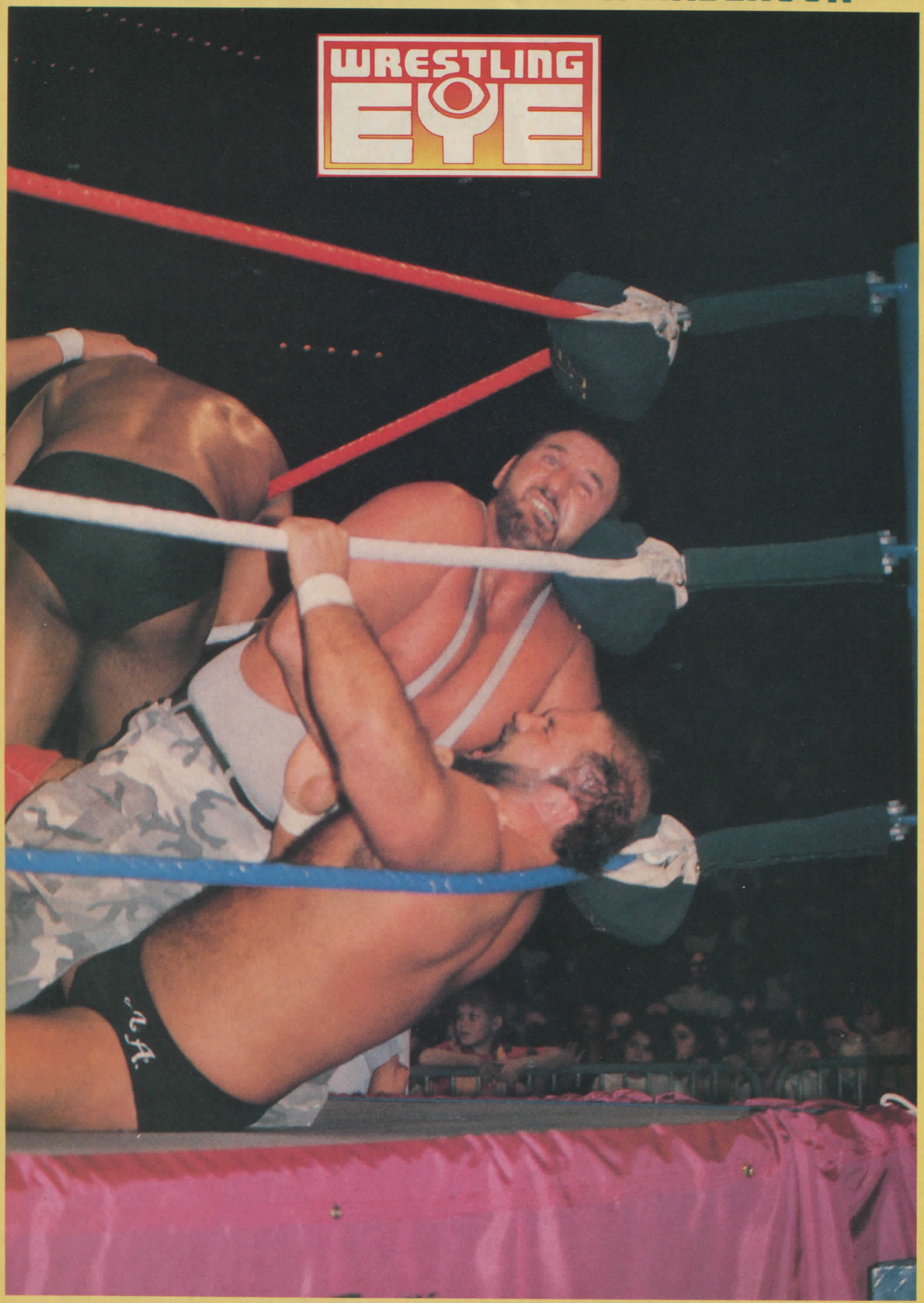
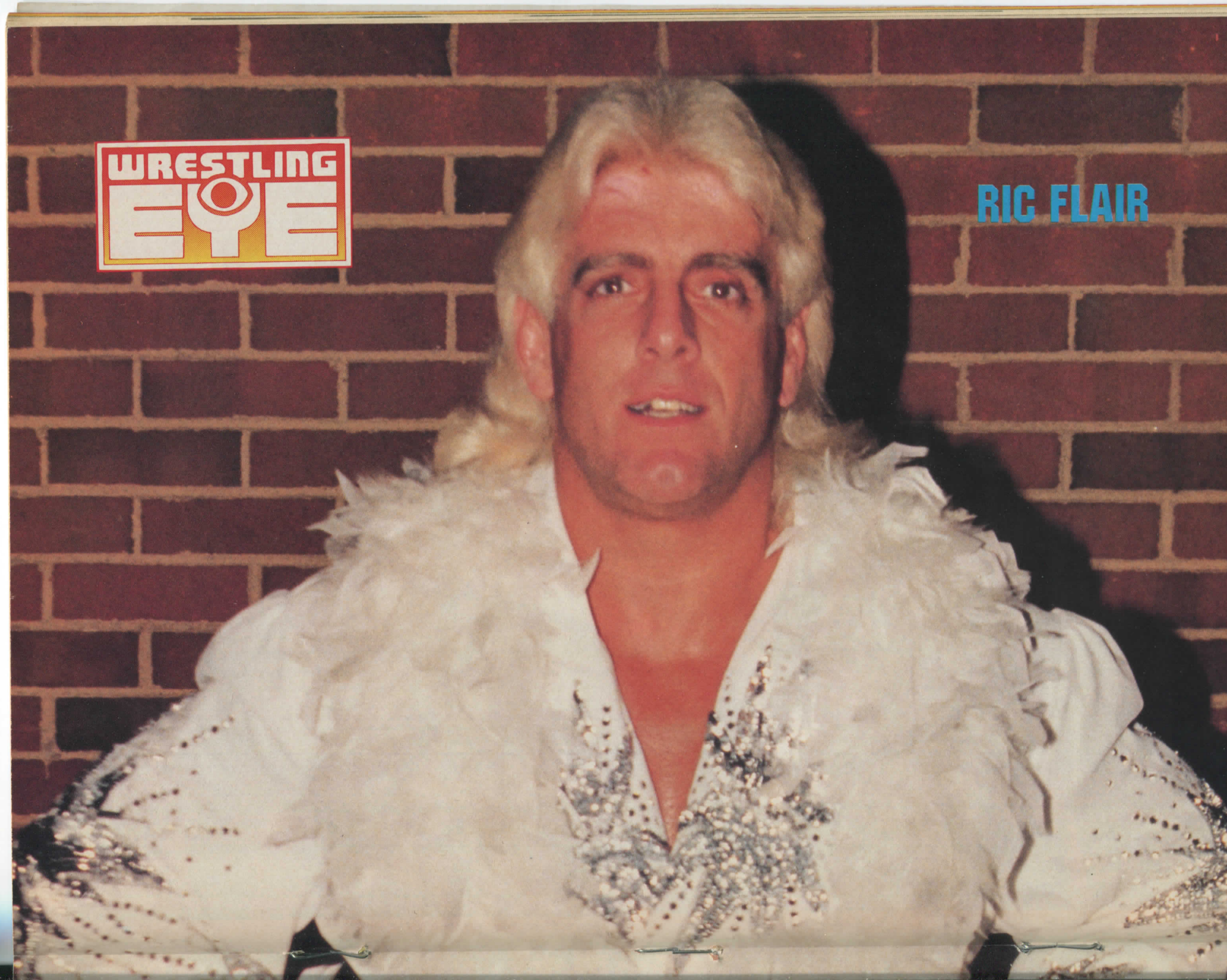


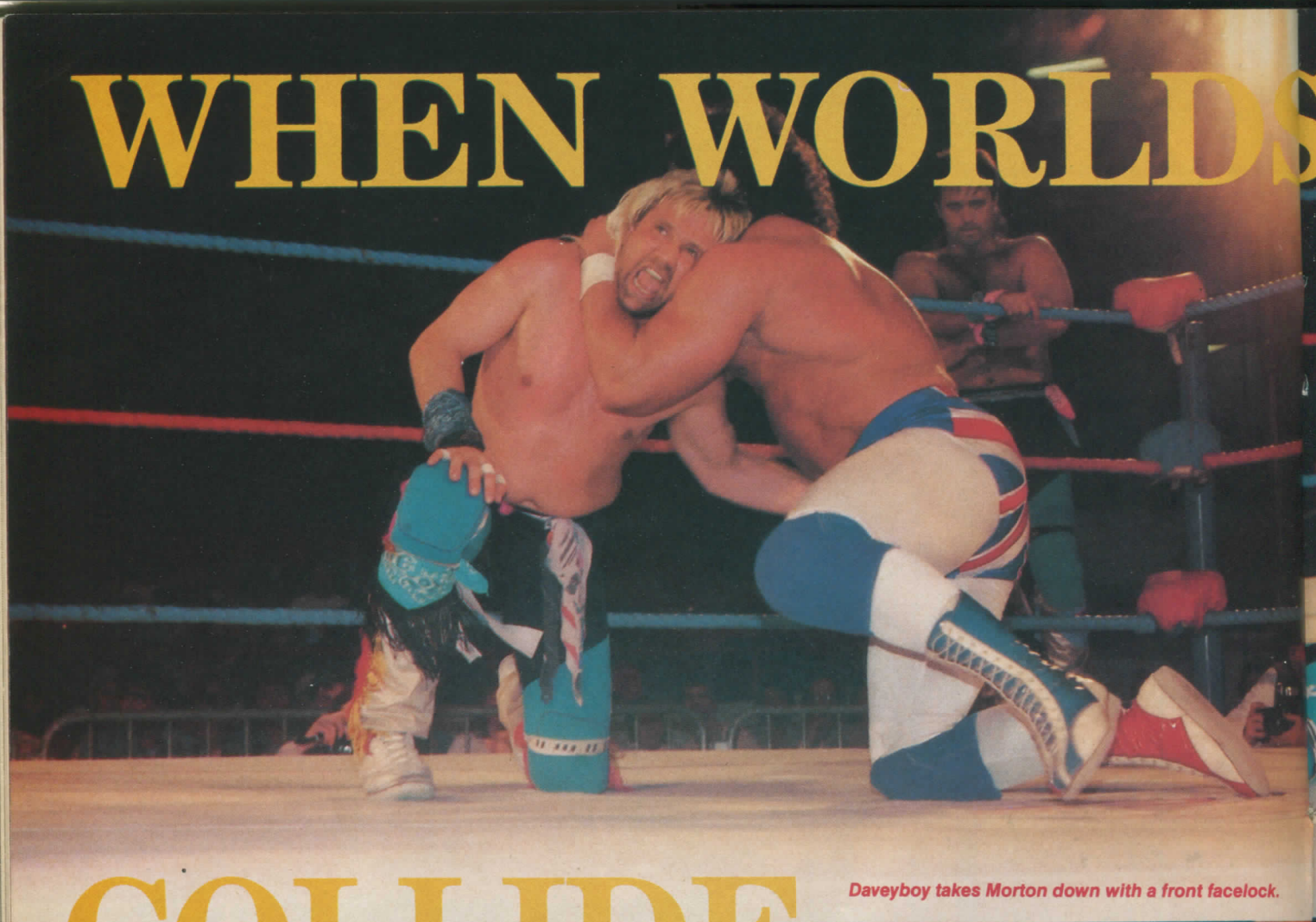
Photo By Broderick Sheperd

BUSHWACKER BUTCH VS ARN ANDERSON



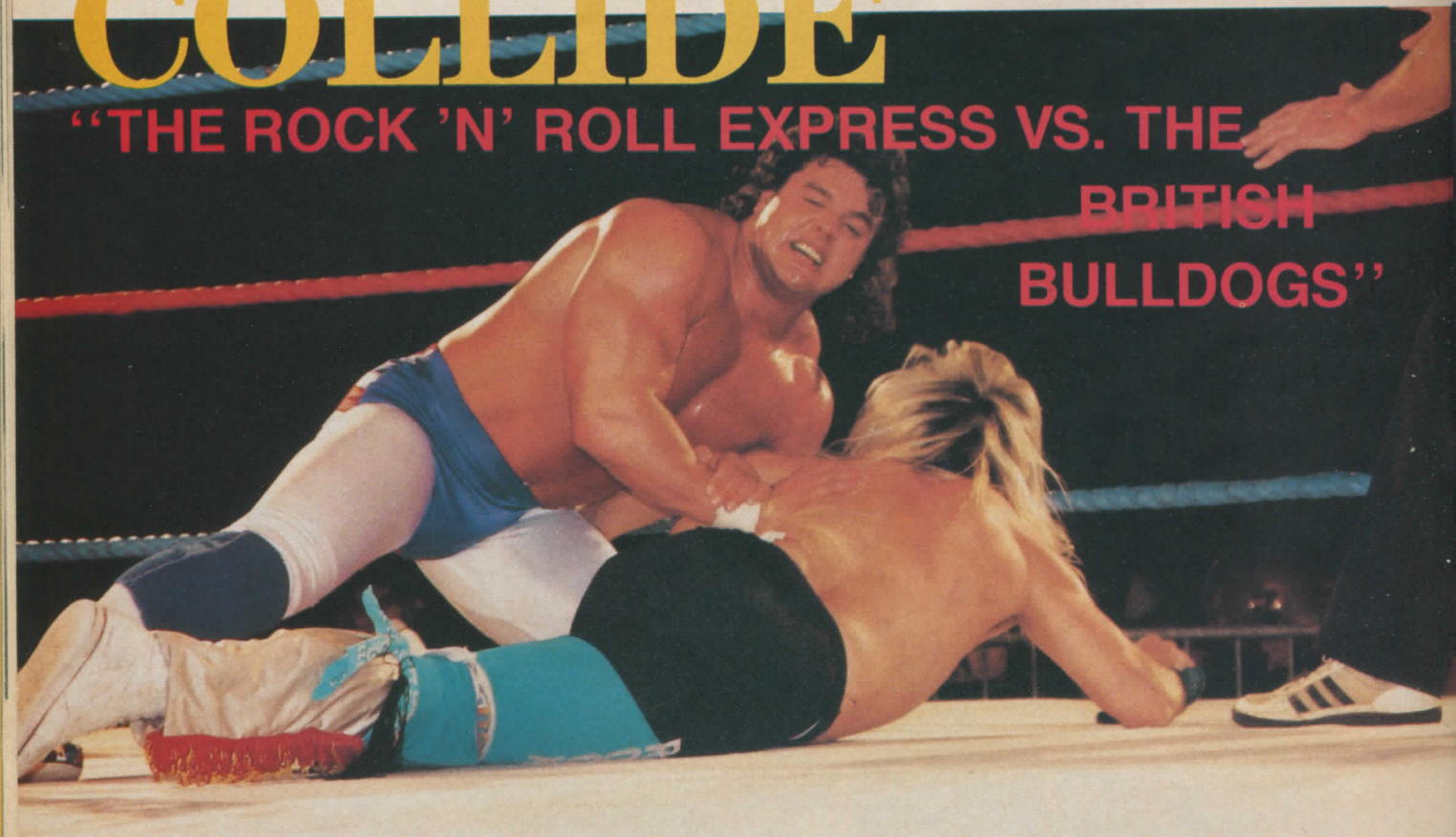

WRESTLING
EYE
RIC FLAIR

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

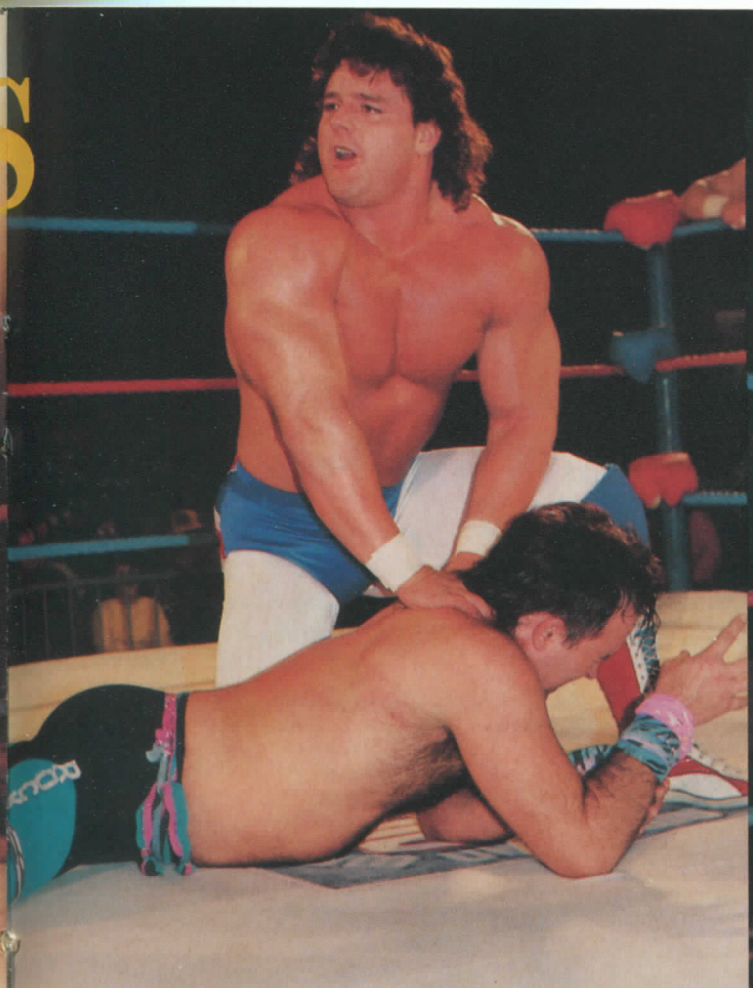


Daveyboy takes Morton down with a front facelock.

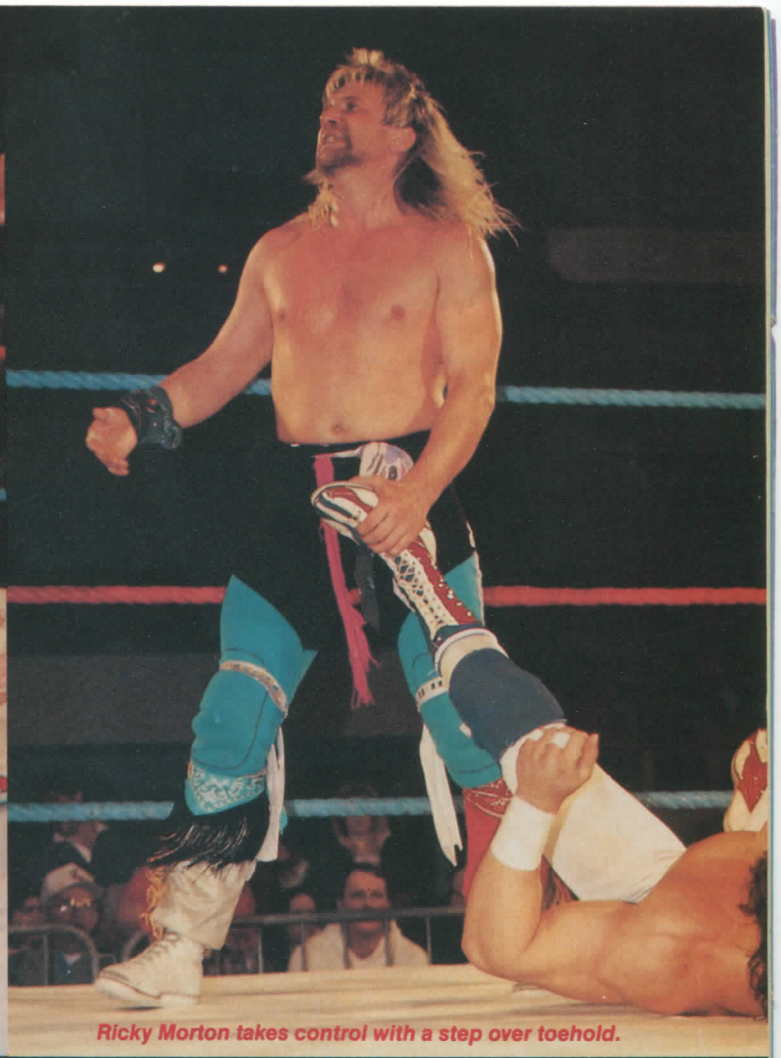
"THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS VS. THE BRITISH BULLDOGS"



Kansas City was the setting for the greatest tag team confrontation of all time.



Former W.W.F. tag team champ, Davey Boy Smith, causes Gibson much pain.



Ricky Morton takes control with a step over toehold.

Davey Boy Smith places a front chancery around the neck of Ricky Morton.

The Dynamite Kid uses the ropes for leverage as he chokes the life out of Robert Gibson.

Editor's Note—"...When Worlds Collide" The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. The British Bulldogs will soon be available on video cassette. For more info write, Cee-Dee Productions, P.O. Box 3626, Union, N.J. 07083. This is one that has to be seen!!!

Davey Boy works on the leg of Ricky "Rock 'n' Roll" Morton.

The Dynamite Kid takes Robert Gibson down to size.

THE FUNK BROS.

Terry and Dory Ride Again

Dory and Terry share a laugh with promoter, Bob Giegel.

By Bill Sanders

The Funks are internationally known throughout the wrestling world as one of the most infamous brother combinations in the vast history of the grappling game. Singly, Terry & Dory, Jr. are both widely acclaimed former National Wrestling Alliance World Heavyweight Champions, and are regarded as two of the finest single competitors of all time.

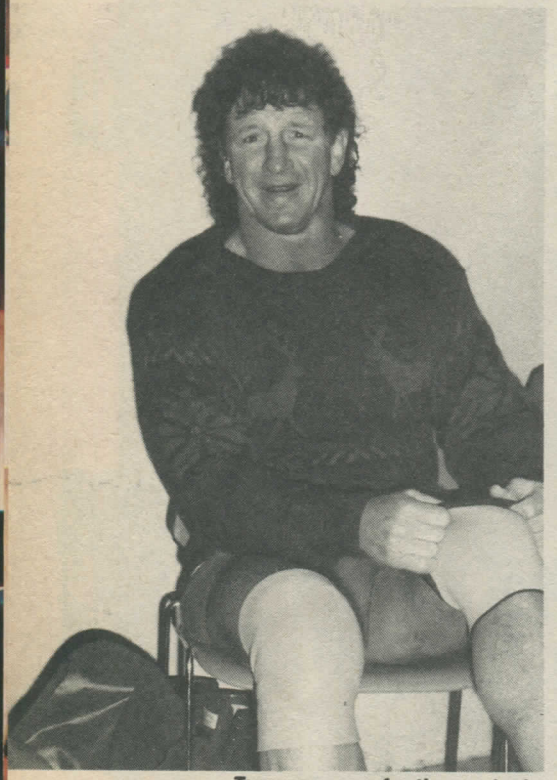
In the past few years, the brothers have been separated by each other's private ventures. Terry, who has appeared in many films in the past, namely "Paradise Alley" and "Over The Top," spent most of his time in Hollywood and completed a movie with actors Sam Elliott and Patrick Swayze entitled, "Roadhouse." Dory, after losing the N.W.A.'s Florida Title to Mike Rotundo last year, went into his own insurance business in Florida.

For three years the Funk brothers were separated.
Dateline—Feb. 2nd 1989
Location—Memorial Hall, Kansas City, Kansas "All Japan T.V. Taping"
Opposition—The Funks vs. "Pretty Boy" Doug Somers & Gorgeous Gary Young

February 2nd was a special and personal day for both Terry and Dory. After three years, the Funks were joined together again. Not because of money, not because of coincidence but because they were brothers. "To see Terry & Dory together again after so many years really gave this little arena some kind of magic," stated former N.W.A. world's champ, Pat O'Connor. "The boys better watch out.

Terry & Dory aren't wrestling a couple of rookies. They've got former world tag champ, Doug Somers and Gorgeous Gary Young, a new up and comer. The Funks may be a legendary team but they're in for a fight tonight," added O'Connor.

It was approaching 9 p.m. on February 2nd. The fourth match was just about to get under way. This was the one that wrestling "aficionados" have been anticipating, including the Funks. The legendary brothers reunited on this rare occasion.



Terry prepares for the contest.

After fifteen minutes of grueling action, piledrivers and backdrops on the concrete floor, "haymakers" that would "KO" the average human being, rakes to the eyes, face and back, horrid falls over the top rope and out of the ring. The Funks were declared the victors on a pinfall.

After the match, with both men exhausted, Terry returned to the lockerroom with a smile on his face as he hugged "Junior" and sat beside him to gather his breath.

In a very impromtu interview WRESTLING EYE caught up with the brothers.

Terry Funk—Ya' know somethin' Junior, I didn't think Somers and Young were so damn good! I don't think they appreciated that piledriver on the floor, or the backdrop for that matter! Right Junior?! (Terry chuckling)

Dory, Jr.—Terry, Bob (Geigel, promoter) said that Stu Hart (promoter) called him this morning to book us for a few shots against the British Bulldogs in Calgary. Ya' know they got the straps up there.

Terry—Yeah well…"

Wrestling Eye Magazine—Gentleman, I'd like to get a few quotes from the both of you, if that's alright.

Dory—Sure

Terry—Who the ?@$! did you say you were?

W.E.—I'm with WRESTLING EYE Magazine, Mr. Funk

Terry—Is that anything like Wrestling "Nose" magazine? (Terry laughs) Yeah, o.k. what's on your mind?

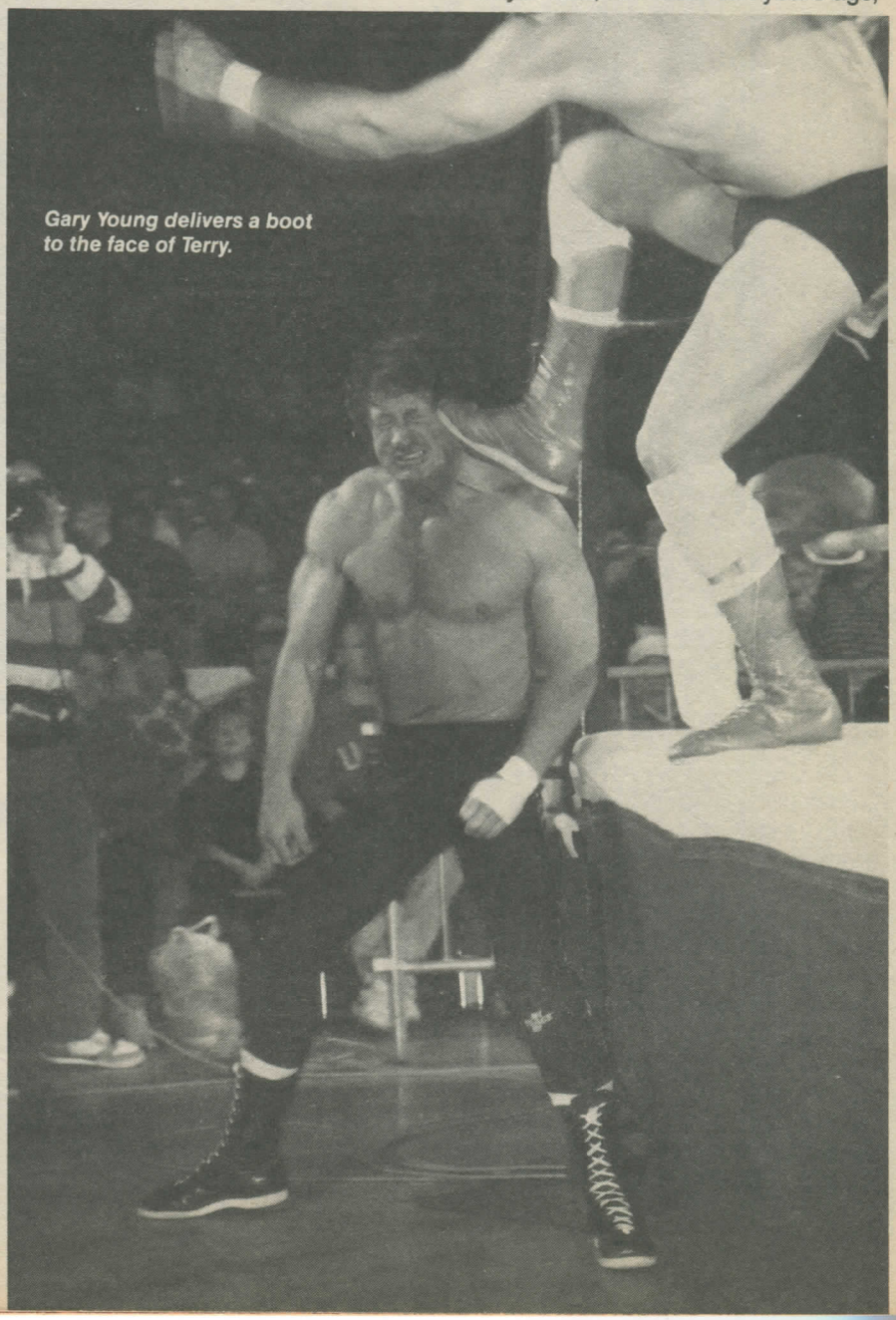
W.E.—How does it feel after such a long absence to be back together again as a team?

Dory—Actually it feels like it's 1977 again. I feel like I just wrestled Harley Race tonight, if you know what I mean.

Terry—Me and Junior had a great time tonight! We'll be going up to Calgary soon for some matches with the Bulldogs, and with my movie "Roadhouse" coming out soon, I'm sure keepin' busy.

W.E.—Tonight in Kansas City, All Japan Wrestling held its television taping. You guys wrestled tonight against two of the sport's most hated rulebreakers, and you guys were really cheered…"

Terry—Yoooou want to know did the ol' Funk bros. turn into good ol' boys. Hell, no! Back ten years ago,



Gary Young delivers a boot to the face of Terry.

Dory and Terry join with long-time friend, Pat O'Connor.

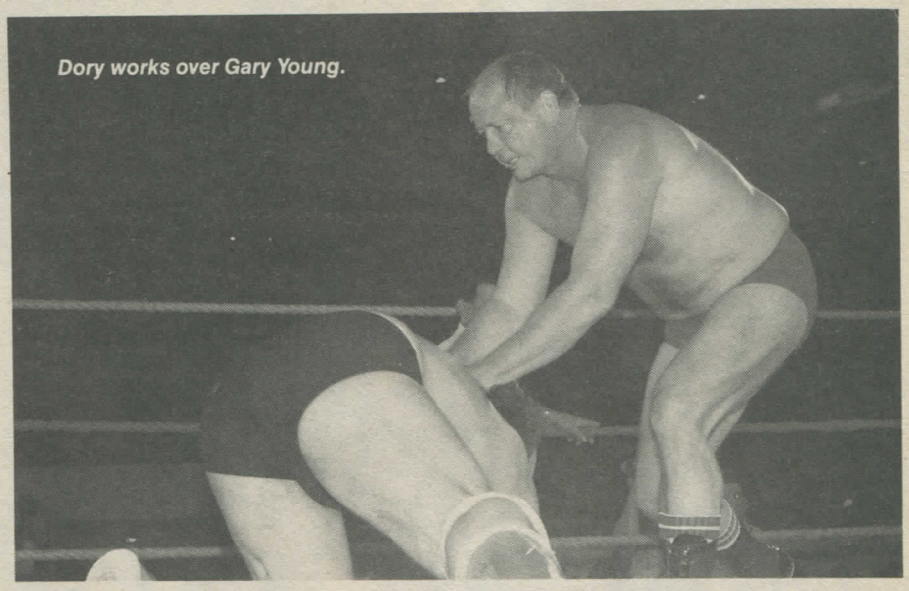
I wrestled Harley Race one night and Jack Brisco the next. It's the same thing now. Doesn't matter if it's the Bulldogs or Young & Somers! Understand?!

Dory—Anyway, myself and Terry if you haven't heard are loved in Japan

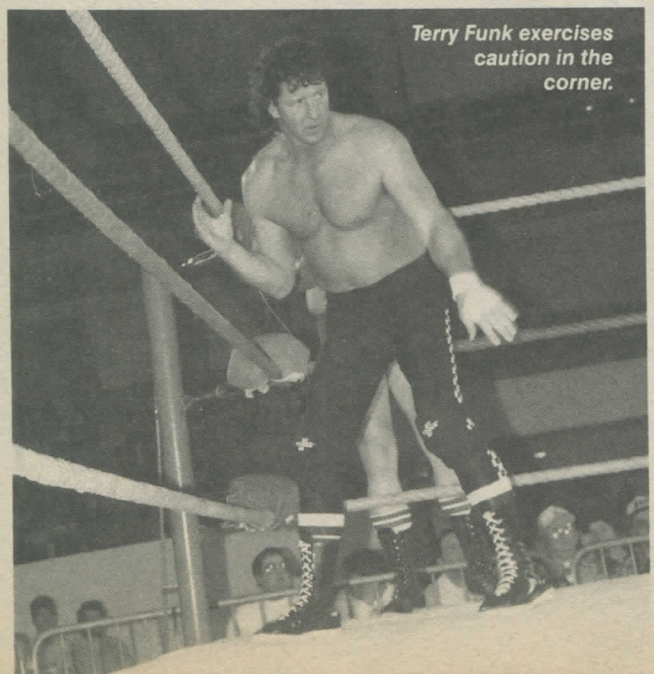
Terry—That's right Junior. We're practically saviors over there!!

W.E.—Well gentlemen let me say it's been a pleasure to see you tonight and speaking for the entire wrestling world, it's good to see you guys back in action together again.

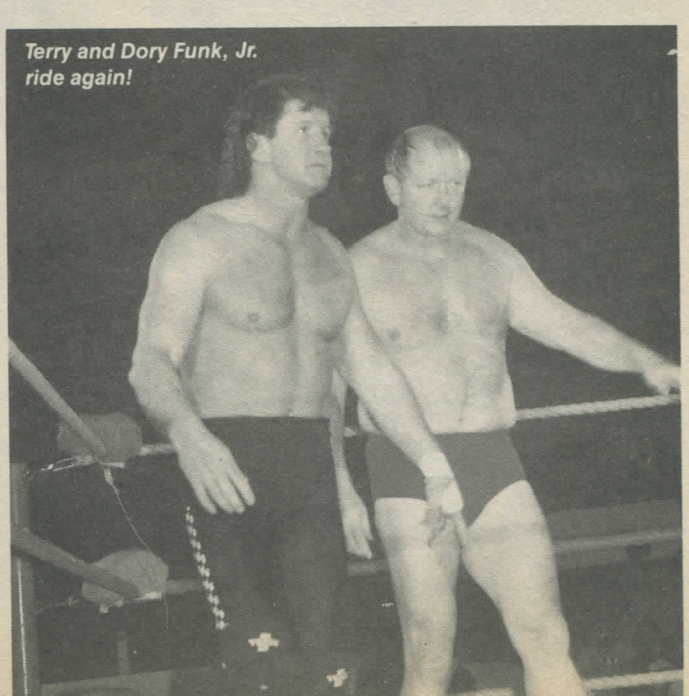
Terry—Well, thanks. (placing his hand on Dory's shoulder) You're gonna see a lot more of the ol' Funks soon.



Dory works over Gary Young.



Terry Funk exercises caution in the corner.



Terry and Dory Funk, Jr. ride again!

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3. Sting
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5. Rick Steiner
6. Kevin Sullivan
7. Mike Rotunda
8. Steve Williams
9. Dick Murdoch
10. Abdullah the Butcher
11. Bobby Fulton
12. Tommy Rogers
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14. Butch Reed
15. Michael Hayes

N.W.F.

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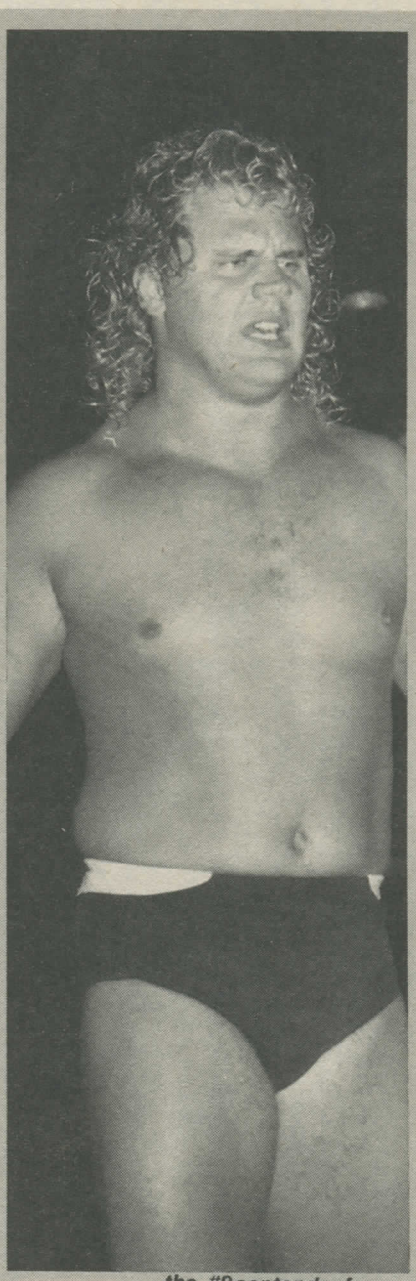

the #9 contender for the WWF belt.

N.C.W.

1. Johnny Rodz
2. Abdullah the Butcher
3. Mondo Kleen
4. Ted Arcidi
5. Toru Tanaka
6. Johnny V.
7. Cousin Luke
8. Larry Sharpe
9. The Heartthrob
10. Diesel Don

the #5 lady wrestler.

U.S.W.A.

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. The Bruiser
3. Rocky Johnson
4. Afu the Wild Samoan
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8. Tom Brandi
9. The Russian Assassin
10. Larry Winters

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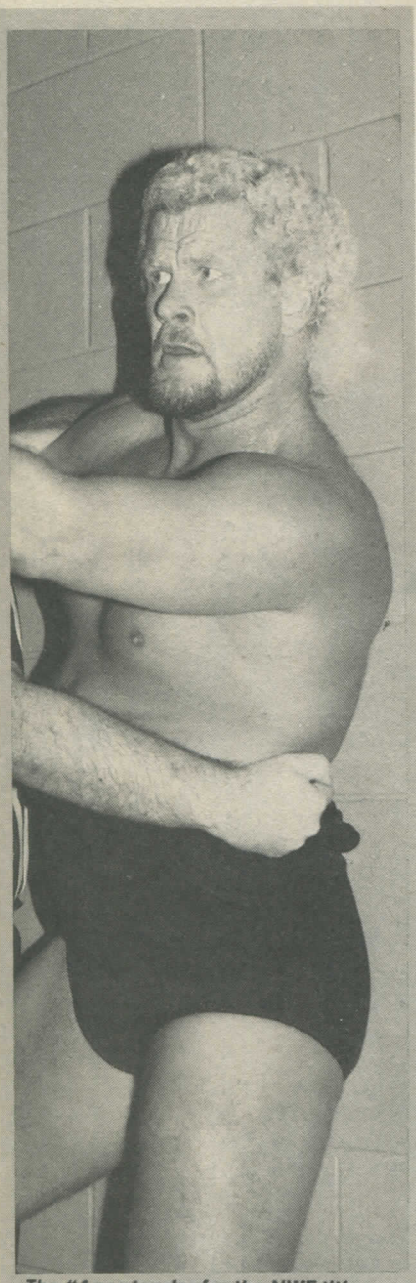
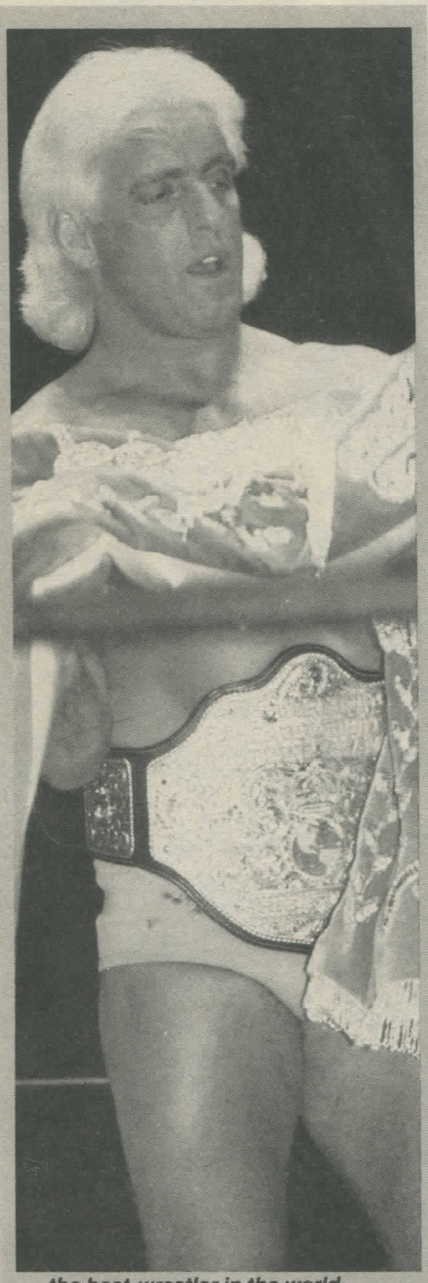


The #4 contender for the NWF title

A.W.A.

1. Larry Zbyszko
2. Don Muraco
3. Jerry Lawler
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Dusty Rhodes
6. Greg Gagne
7. Pat Tanaka
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Paul Diamond
10. Mondo Guerrero



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5. Eric Embry
6. Chris Adams
7. Gary Young
8. Super Black Ninja
9. Brian Adias
10. Buddy Roberts

WORLD'S WOMEN'S RATINGS

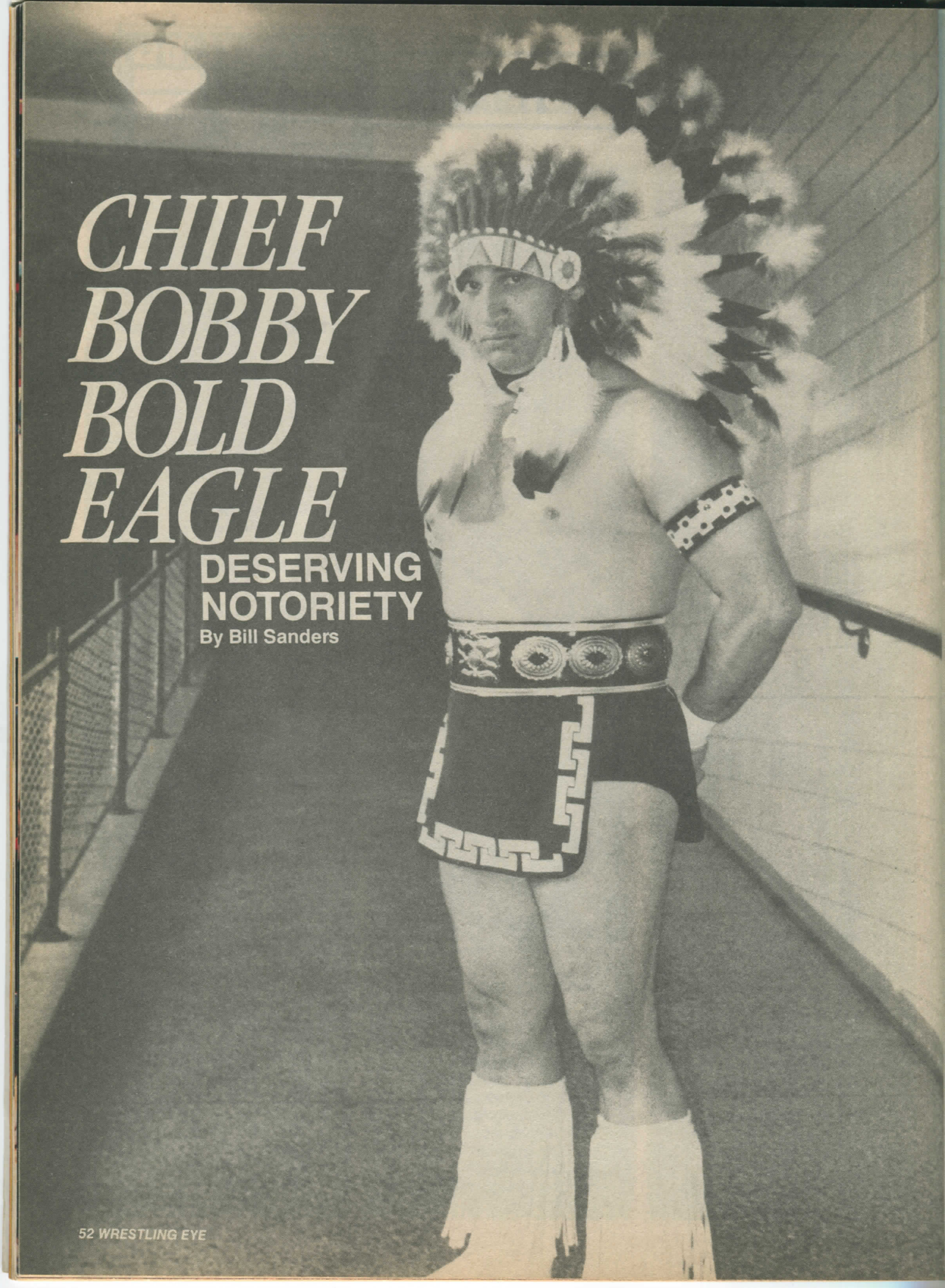
1. Madusa Miceli
2. Misty Blue
3. Wendi Richter
4. Debbie Combs
5. Heidi Lee Morgan
6. Linda Dallas
7. Candi Divine
8. Sherri Martel
9. Rockin' Robin
10. Kat Leroux

TOP 15 MANAGERS

1. Demolition
2. Midnight Express
3. Road Warriors
4. Brain Busters
5. Powers of Pain
6. The Rockers
7. The Varsity Club
8. The British Bulldogs
9. Badd Company
10. Rock 'n Roll Express
11. The Bushwackers
12. The Guerrero Brothers
13. The Samoan Swat Team
14. Terry Gordy and Stan Hansen
15. The Rougeaus

TOP 15 (rated by wrestling ability)

1. Ric Flair
2. Barry Windham
3. Ted Dibiase
4. Curt Hennig
5. Bret Hart
6. Tully Blanchard
7. Randy Savage
8. Dynamite Kid
9. Terry Taylor
10. The Cheetah Kid
11. Pat Tanaka
12. Mondo Guerrero
13. The Blue Blazer
14. Sting
15. Marty Jannetty



CHIEF BOBBY BOLD EAGLE

DESERVING NOTORIETY

By Bill Sanders

A former N.W.A. World's Junior Heavyweight Champion, Bobby Bold Eagle is not a name that most fans know, but he righteously deserves recognition. Trained by the legendary high flyer, Antonino Rocca, Bold Eagle is a veteran of the squared circle. Aside from the NWA title, Bobby has also held many other championships like the International Junior Heavyweight Championship, which he won in Guatemala and the A.A.U. Junior Heavyweight Title.

Bold Eagle has wrestled in more countries than most wrestlers have even heard of. Some of the many wrestling promotions he's wrestled for include the I.W.E. promotion of Japan, Joint Promotions of England, Promociones Mora of Mexico (N.W.A.), Red Carpet Promotions of Puerto Rico, Basin De Supreme —The National Wrestling Council of Nigeria, Saudi Arabian wrestling promotions and many various independent promotions in the United States and Canada.

As you can see he's an acclaimed veteran, but why hasn't he had the publicity like that of other internationally known superstars? "I wrestle basically in foreign countries like England, France, Japan, and Mexico where the promoters appreciate and have the use for a small junior heavyweight. Don't get me wrong, i'm not crying sour grapes, but it's just a fact that the promoters in the United States don't hire wrestlers like me. In the U.S., Junior Heavyweights are virtually unknown. The big promoters are made of big wrestlers, plain and simple," says the forty-four-year-old Bold Eagle.

Other than just having an impressive professional career, Bold Eagle has an impressive amateur record as well. In 1969 Bold Eagle captured one silver and two bronze medals in the Empire State Games held in New York. He was a champion wrestler in high school and it was there that Bobby says he developed his desire and abilities to become a pro. "A lot of people in this business don't think that amateur wrestling is beneficial to becoming a pro, that it's two different worlds. Well, believe me if you wish to make something out of yourself and not get killed wrestling overseas then you better know a certain amount of amateur techniques. Some of the finest technical wrestlers today were at one time accomplished amateurs. Ric Flair, the Dynamite Kid, Bob Backlund and the Iron Sheik are good examples," stated Bobby.

Bobby began wrestling at the tender age of fourteen. "I used to work out at the Perez-Rocca Gym in New York City. There I met the Gallagher Bros., the Grahams, Fargos and of course Antonino Rocca, who took a liking to me and began to train me. Rocca had a few other students beside me in his class, namely Pedro Morales who later went on to become a W.W.F. World's Champion. Anyway, I couldn't have had a better or more qualified teacher than Rocca," remembers Bobby.

Now Bobby himself is a teacher of pro wrestling. Of his students a few have gone on to prominence namely independent sensation, The Cheetah Kid, Kid McCoy who's the Junior Heavyweight champ of England and is a household word in Europe, and another believe it or not was the legendary Tiger Mask of Japan, of whom Bobby taught a few moves to. "Myself and Tiger Mask, became good friends for a while. I trained with him for a while, taught him a few different moves that I picked up in Mexico the month before, and really became a close friend. At the time Tiger Mask was vying for the N.W.A. Junior Heavyweight Title held by Les Thornton. Tiger of course took the championship. He granted me his first title match and I captured the belt. Three weeks and eighteen matches later, Tiger Mask regained the belt from me. I haven't been back to Japan since," said Bobby.

In his illustrious thirty year career, Bobby has some stories to tell including a few incidents that are scary to say the least. As Bobby recalls, "I was wrestling at St. George's Hall in Bradford, England, when the top rope broke and I flew out of the ring twenty five feet into the orchestra pit! Luckily, all I suffered were three cracked

Former N.W.A. Junior Heavyweight Champion of the world.

ribs."

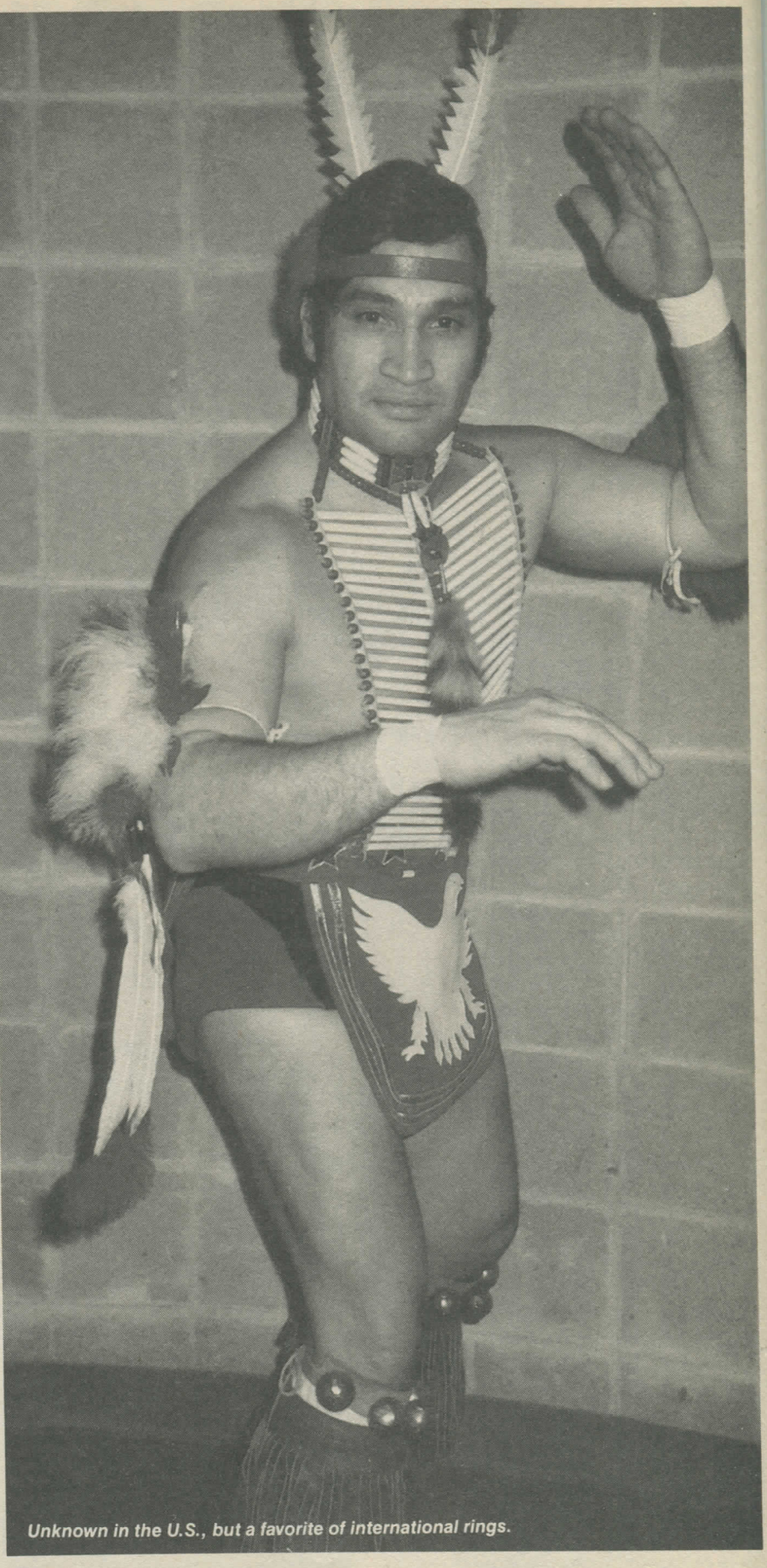
Bobby has faced some great wrestlers in his career, including Dory Funk Jr., Bobby Fulton, Danny McShane, Mike Pappas, Mark "Rollerball" Rocco, Tiger Mask, Les Thornton, The Black Tiger, Tiger Hamaguchi, The Mighty Inoui, "Dynamite" Jack Evans, "Cyanide" Cyd Cooper, and perhaps the most memorable and not so memorable opponent Dr. Jerry Graham. As Bobby remembers, "It was in Ohio. My match with Dr. Jerry was third on the card, and it was just one of those nights when the crowd was quiet. Jerry thought he might stir them up a bit. I entered the ring first, before Jerry. I was taking off my headdress, when out of the corner of my eye I saw Jerry running at me with what appeared to be a beer bottle. He cracked the bottle on the ringpost, then he sliced my forehead open! I didn't know what happened! The next thing I saw 'red' and the 'red' was my own blood! I'll never forget that as long as I live."

Bobby may not have received as much publicity as that of today's stars but he's undeniably had an exciting career. He's wrestled in some of the finest arenas in the world including Royal Albert Hall in London, Wembley Arena, the Croydon Arena, the Plaza De Toro in Mexico City, and in front of 60,000 fans at the international Soccer Stadium in Lagos, Nigeria. "I've had some outstanding matches, wrestled in some of the most extraordinary places and I've met a lot of people along the way, but right now my love is teaching wrestling," said Bobby with enthusiasm.

Bobby trains his students in the heart of the big apple, New York City at Gleason's Gymnasium, every Tuesday and Saturday. "Most instructors teach the American style of pro wrestling. I teach American style, European style, Japanese style, and Mexican style. Anything my students want to learn, I can teach them."

We at WRESTLING EYE hope this shines some light on one of the greatest junior heavyweight and technical wrestlers of our time, Chief Bobby Bold Eagle.

(If you think you have what it takes to train with Bobby, write to Bold Eagle's Wrestling Academy, 165 E. 179th St., Apt. 3L, Bronx, N.Y. 10453 or call Nick at (718) 273-8455. Bobby invites all resumes and inquiries.



Unknown in the U.S., but a favorite of international rings.

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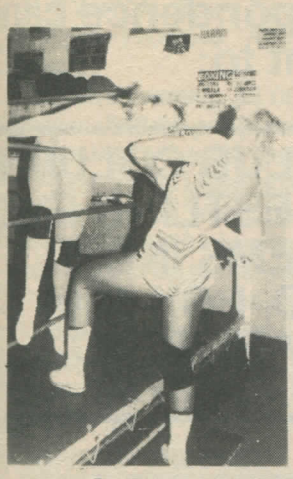

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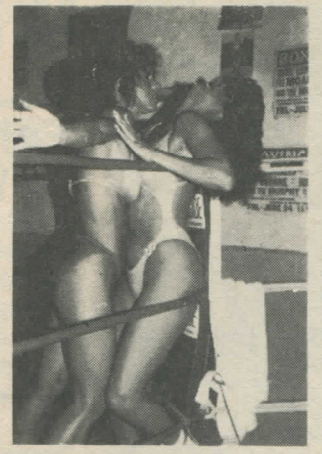

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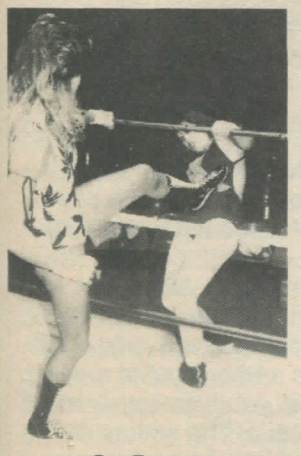

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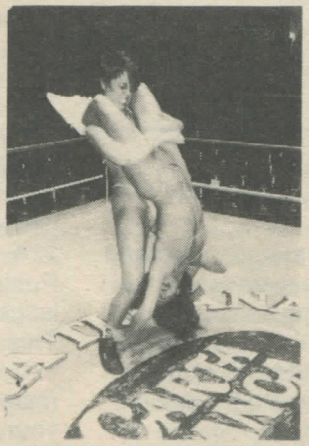

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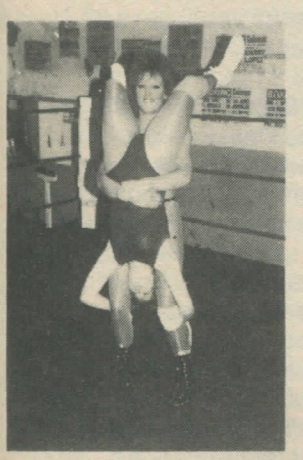

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This is truly a MUST HAVE newsletter. If you're looking for a totally honest piece of work that will give you the inside scoop into wrestling, run, don't walk to your mailbox and order yours TODAY!

WRESTLING WATCH: Tom Mavrikes, Ed. P.O. Box 515, Glen Dale, Md 20769
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You'll get a complete look at all the major federations including ratings, results, news and trivia. This bulletin will really keep you up to date on all your favorites and it's definitely worth a look. Highly recommended.

GLOBAL MAT INFO: David Howell, Ed., 116 Woodbury Av. Stamford, Ct 06907
Published monthly. $1.50 per issue.
Plenty of results, ratings, news and trivia can be yours every month in this computer graphically generated bulletin. The editor really tries to give you your money's worth and it certainly is worth the price so get a copy today.

ARENA REPORT: Ron Lemieux, Ed. 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, Ct 06066
Published twice a month. 50¢ per issue.
The editor has a nice style of writing and lets you know what's happening in the wrestling world. The issue we reviewed concentrated on the NWA and was chock full of information. The editor relies on correspondents to help round out the publication, so drop him a line and tell him about the matches you saw.

THE WRESTLING REPORT: Greg Oliver, Ed. 15 Penrose Ave., Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2A 1E9
Published monthly. $1.00 per issue.
This Canadian wrestling bulletin gives you run downs on the NWA, WWF, Stampede, CWA, AWA and World Class. The computer graphics make it clear and easy to read. Order your copy today and keep up on the latest on the Canadian scene.

WRESTLING HOTLINE: Ciji Brianne, Lori Joyce, Ed. 54 Kentish Crescent, Agincourt Ontario M1S 2Z4
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TWIN CITIES WRESTLING UPDATE: Kris Pope, Ed. P.O. Box 31114, Minneapolis, Mn 55431
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CORRESPONDENCE

KRISTIN ADLON—Age 16, 74 Cathedral Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110 would like to hear from fans who agree that Vince McMahon is a great promoter and is far better than Jim Crockett. She also would like to hear from fans of the Ultimate Warrior and those who don't think very highly of Elizabeth.
TINA FREEMAN—Age 15, Box 66, Iberia, Ohio 43325 would like to hear from fans of Ricky Morton, Steve Cox, the Fantastics, Chris Adams, the Von Erichs, Bill Dundee and Todd Morton.
Barb Pinder—Age 16, 3135 Weikel St., Phila., Pa 19134 would like to hear from fans who like Paul E. Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express, Ted DiBiase, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson.
KRISTIN "C.C. KATT" RIGGS—Age 19, RD 1 Box 140, Bedford, Pa 15522 is interested in hearing from fans 18 and over who like Brutus Beefcake, Hulk Hogan, Magnum TA, Marty Jannetty, Ricky Morton, Lex Luger, DJ Peterson, Michael Hayes, Kerry Von Erich, Sting, Blue Blazer, Jake Roberts and Ultimate Warrior.
JEFF CLASSEN—Age 29, 629 Highland Ave., Apt. 2, Salina, Ks would like to hear from fans of Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, JYD, Ricky Steamboat and Brutus Beefcake.
VICTOR E. MESSNER—Age 18, P.O. Box 113, Quentin, Pa 17083 would like to hear from fans of Terry Taylor, Lex Luger, Barry Windham, Curt Hennig, Ted DiBiase and Ric Flair.
"HOTSTUFF" RICKY LAMBERT—Age 16, Rt. 1 Box 183-A, Duffield, Va 24224 would love to hear from wrestling fans from all over the world. He especially wants to hear from fans who like Ricky Steamboat, Sting, Dustin Rhodes, Dusty Rhodes, "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert, Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Midnight Express, Jimmy and Ronnie Garvin, Blue Blazer, Bret Hart, Todd Morton, Ricky Morton, Bill Dundee, Manny Fernandez, Ric Flair, Rick Steiner, Kendall and Barry Windham. He will answer all letters.
"WILD" BILL MOFFAT AND THE JEDI KNIGHTS—428 Greenwood #6, Canon City, Co 81212, Ages 22, 23, and 17 would like to hear from fans from around the world and USA. Between them, they like almost all wrestlers. Will answer all letters, especially females!
SUSAN MANNING—Age 21, 3229 Salmon St., Phila., Pa 19134 would like to hear from fans of the WWF especially fans of Brutus Beefcake, Rick Martel, Curt Hennig and the Rockers.
SAMANTHA SHORT—Age 16, HCR 83, Box 765, Lowmansville, Ky 41232 would LOVE to hear from fans of the Rockers. She promises to answer all letters.
RHONDA CLARK—125 Honeysuckle Dr., Hendersonville, Tn 37075 would like to hear from all fans of the CWA, the Stud Stable, Curt Hennig, Bret Hart, the Rockers and Lex Luger.
LEEANN BUTLER—P.O. Box 1, Wainwright, Ok 74468 would love to hear from all wrestling fans and will answer all letters.
LISA PRICKETT—Age 16, P.O. Box 70, Cole Camp, Mo 65325 would like to hear from fans of Michael P.S. Hayes, Lex Luger, Ultimate Warrior, the Rockers, Kevin and Kerry Von Erich and other wrestling greats in the AWA, CWA, NWA and WWF.
WANTED TO TRADE, SELL OR BUY
BRIAN LULEVITCH—2605 Eagle Rd., West Chester, Pa 19382 would like to trade tapes of the WCCW, WWF, AWA, NWA and GLOW for tapes of recent ALL STAR WRESTLING. He also has many magazines for sale.
DENNIS HAYNES—Rt. 2 Box 335, Jonesville, NC 28642 has over 2000 magazines from 1968 to present for sale. He also has VHS tapes of U.S. and Mexican wrestling. Send SASE for list.
ERIC T. JONES—1753 Village Run North, Encinitas, Ca 92024 wants Michael Hayes of the Freebirds cassette tapes in near mint condition. He will trade a complete set of 1985 WWF wrestling cards for them, but write first.

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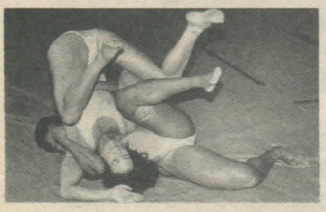

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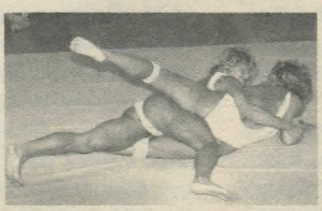

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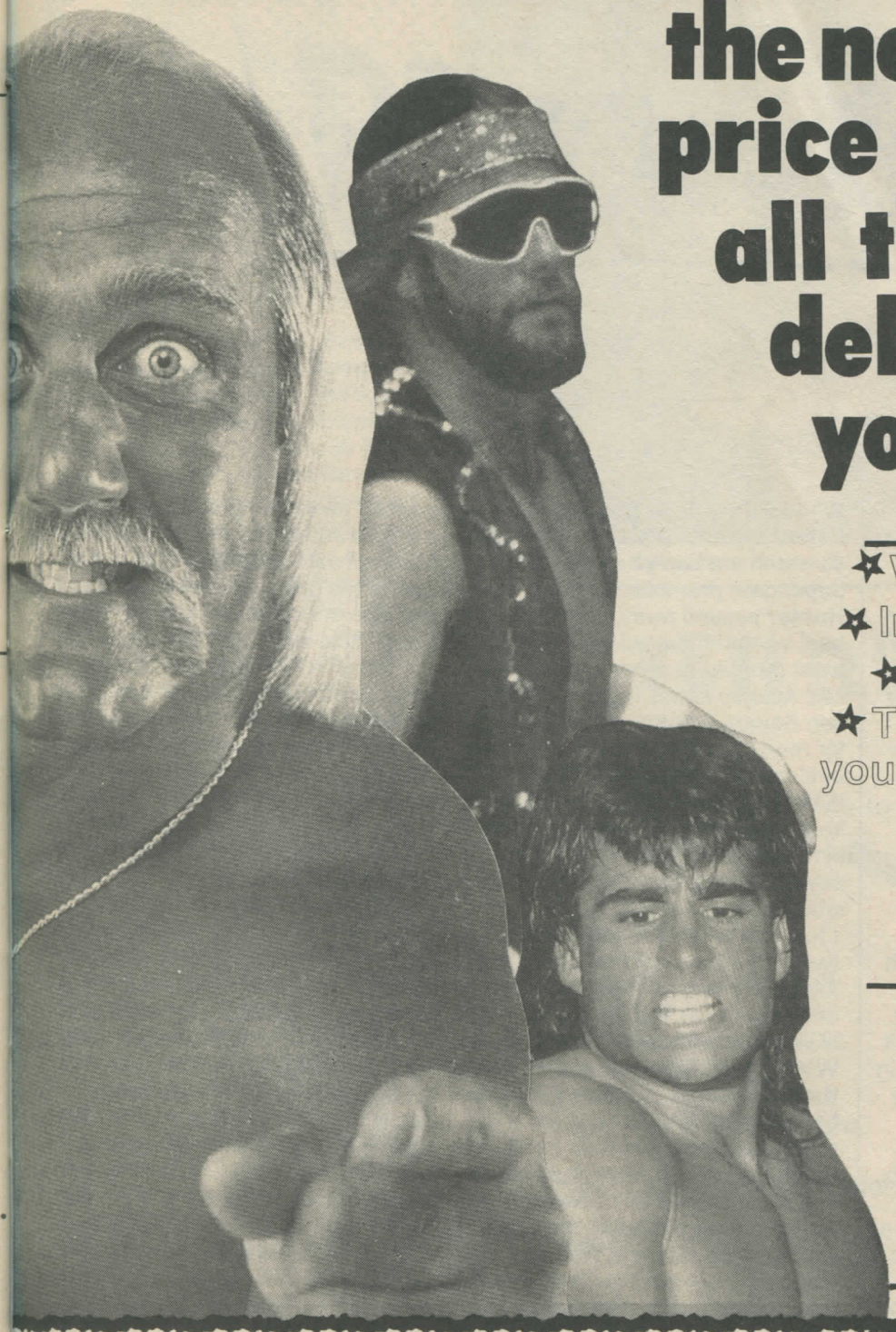

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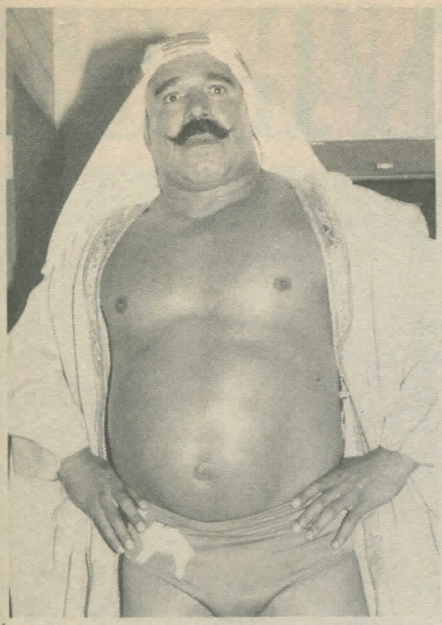
PHANTOM of the ring

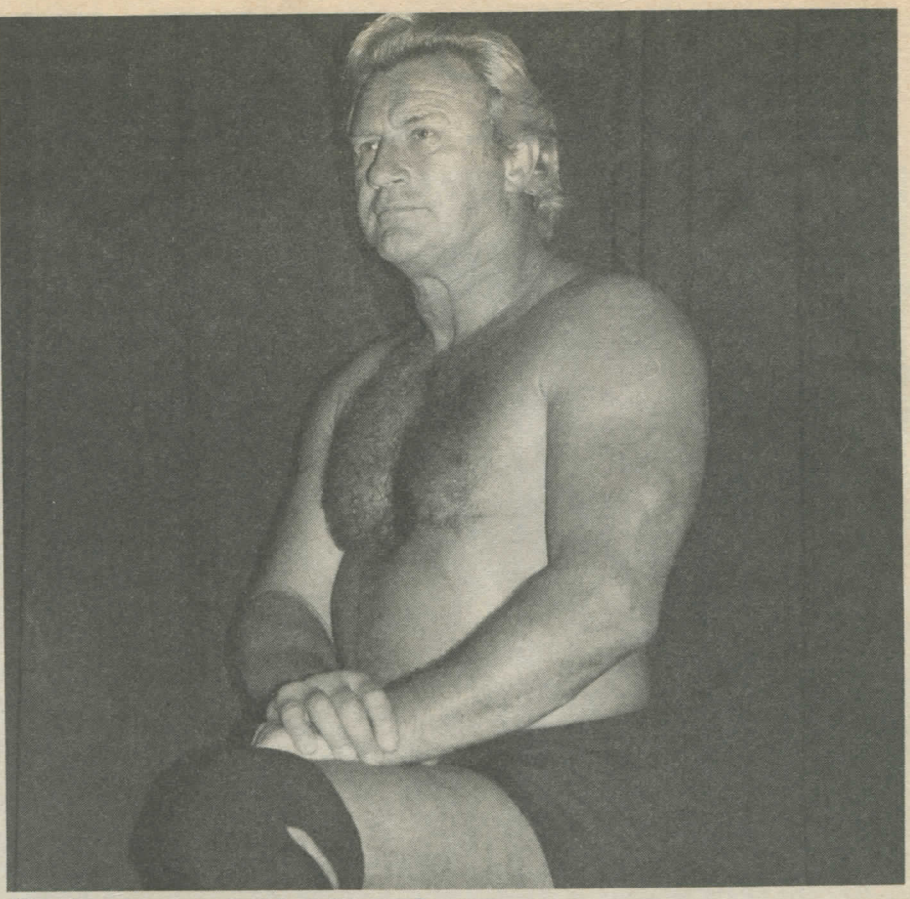
Of course the big news of this month is a new N.W.A. champ, **Ricky Steamboat.** As you know, **Ricky** defeated **Ric Flair** at The Chi-Town Rumble in a stunning upset. Most experts agree that **Steamboat's** reign as champ will be a short lived one. (Chances are **Steamboat** will not be champ when you read this). Many believe that **Flair** will regain the belt from **Steamboat** and feud with former U.S. champ, **Barry Windham.** A **Flair/Windham** match is the N.W.A.'s answer to a **Savage/ Hogan** matchup. With all the new management take overs in the past, within the organization, such a match of this caliber will help boost the N.W.A. in their constant race with the W.W.F. ...Word has it that The **Honkytonk Man's** days in the W.W.F are numbered. He may be going to wrestle for **Ted Turner's** N.W.A. A few other W.W.F. wrestlers are speculating a shift to the N.W.A. ...The **Iron Sheik** has returned to the N.W.A. rings after a very lengthy absence. It's great to see the **Sheik,** a former World's Champ, back in the spotlight...The **Samoan Swat Team** looks tremendous since their inception in the N.W.A. **Paul E. Dangerously** never stops to amaze us...**Larry Zbyszko** looks excellent in the A.W.A. since he captured the A.W.A. World's Title. **Tom Zenk** and **Ken Patera** are hot on his heels though, so watch out **Larry!**...Long time independent promoter, **Johnny Hunter** passed away. **Johnny** will best be remembered as one of the most prominent promoters in the Mid Atlantic states region...Madison Square Garden will be closed for renovations during the summer until the fall of this year. The W.W.F.'s primary shows in the New York Area will now have to be held in the Meadowlands, in New Jersey which has not drawn any large crowds since 1984...

I told you **Rowdy Roddy Piper** wouldn't stay away from wrestling for long. It seems **Piper** received offer from both **Ted Turner's** N.W.A. and **Vince McMahon's** W.W.F., but **McMahon's** offer was the most lucrative. **Rowdy Roddy** back in the W.W.F. should do a tremendous amount of help for attendances which have been slacking. Most likely a lot of people who are no longer attending matches will, with the return of **Roddy**... Honestly I believe that Pro Wrestling will receive a comeback in 1989, as it did in 1984, with **Turner** and **McMahon** trying to top each other...**Mildred Burke** who is regarded by many as the greatest women's wrestler of all time right along side, the **Fabulous Moolah,** passed away on February 8th from a stroke suffered a few days earlier. **Mildred** will be remembered as one of the greatest women ever to put lace up a pair of wrestling boots. She will be greatly missed ...Former A.W.A. World's Champ, **Nick Bockwinkel** has opened a NISSAN car dealership in West Allis, W.I. called "Bockwinkel's West Allis NISSAN—"Where you don't have to wrestle for a deal." **Nick** is currently an agent for the World Wrestling Federation...**Vince Young,** son of **Chief Jay Strongbow,** is currently wrestling in the N.W.A. ...**Tony Schiavone** looks great in the W.W.F. as their newest television announcer. **Schiavone** can add a lot more seriousness to a W.W.F. telecast...**Dr. 'D' David Shultz,** recently made an appearance on the Morning Show with **Regis Philbin** in N.Y. It seems **Doctor D** will be on many talk shows in the future talking mainly about his newly found profession, bounty hunting. **David** by the way was voted the number one bounty hunter in the country by law enforcement agencies nation wide...

This year's Wrestlemania looks great. Hopefully more wrestling than hype. We'll have full coverage next month...The **Funk Bros., and Harley Race** are wrestling in the



Calgary Stampede area...**Scotty the Body** is now in **Don Owen's** Oregon promotion, where he's calling himself the Wrestling Expert, and doing some phenomenal T.V. commentary...**Steve and Sean Simpson** look great since their return to the United States and World Class. The **Simpsons** are a product of South Africa...**Cactus Jack Manson** is feuding with **Eric Embry** all over the lone star state in some of the most brutal confrontations the heartland has seen in some time. (See article on Cactus Jack in this issue)...Kansas City was the setting for some of the greatest matches of the year, as **Shohei Baba's** New Japan Promotion invaded the States. (see article in this issue) Not only were there some great matches but on hand were six former World Champions **—Harley Race, Dory Funk Jr., Terry Funk, Stan Hansen, Jumbo Tsuruta, Pat O'Connor** and former P.W.F. champ **Genichiro Tenryu.** One match which is featured in a full color spread in this magazine namely, The **Rock 'n' Roll Express** vs. The **British Bulldogs** will soon be available. For info write to CEE-DEE Productions, P.O. BOX 3626, Union. N.J. 07083...**Rick Rude's** favorite dish is fried chicken. In fact, he's such a disciplined eater he won't eat dairy products because of their fat content...A Puerto Rican jury acquitted **Jose Gonzales** of the charges he stabbed **Bruiser Brody** to death ...Until next month, this is the Phantom signing off.



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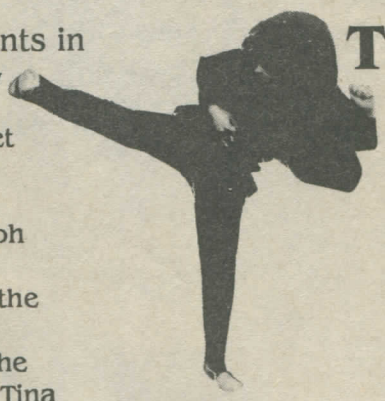

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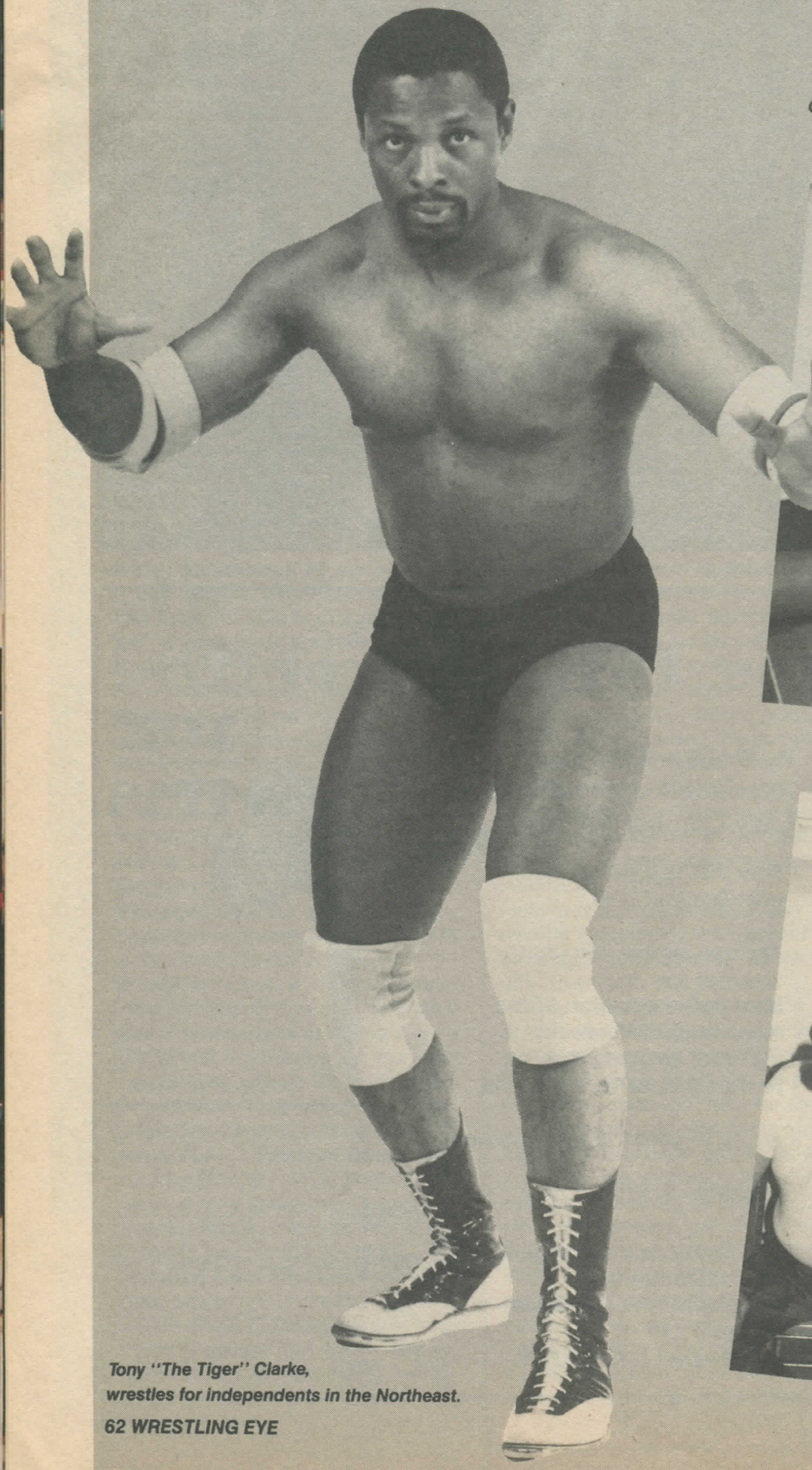
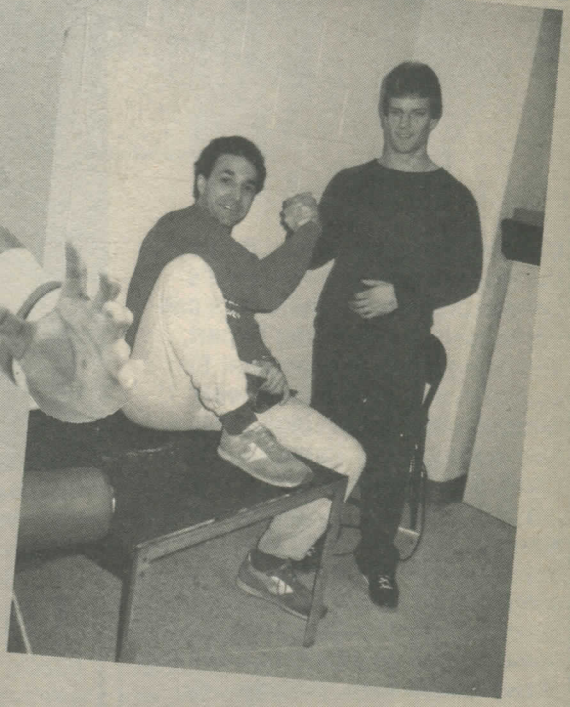


Tony "The Tiger" Clarke, wrestles for independents in the Northeast.

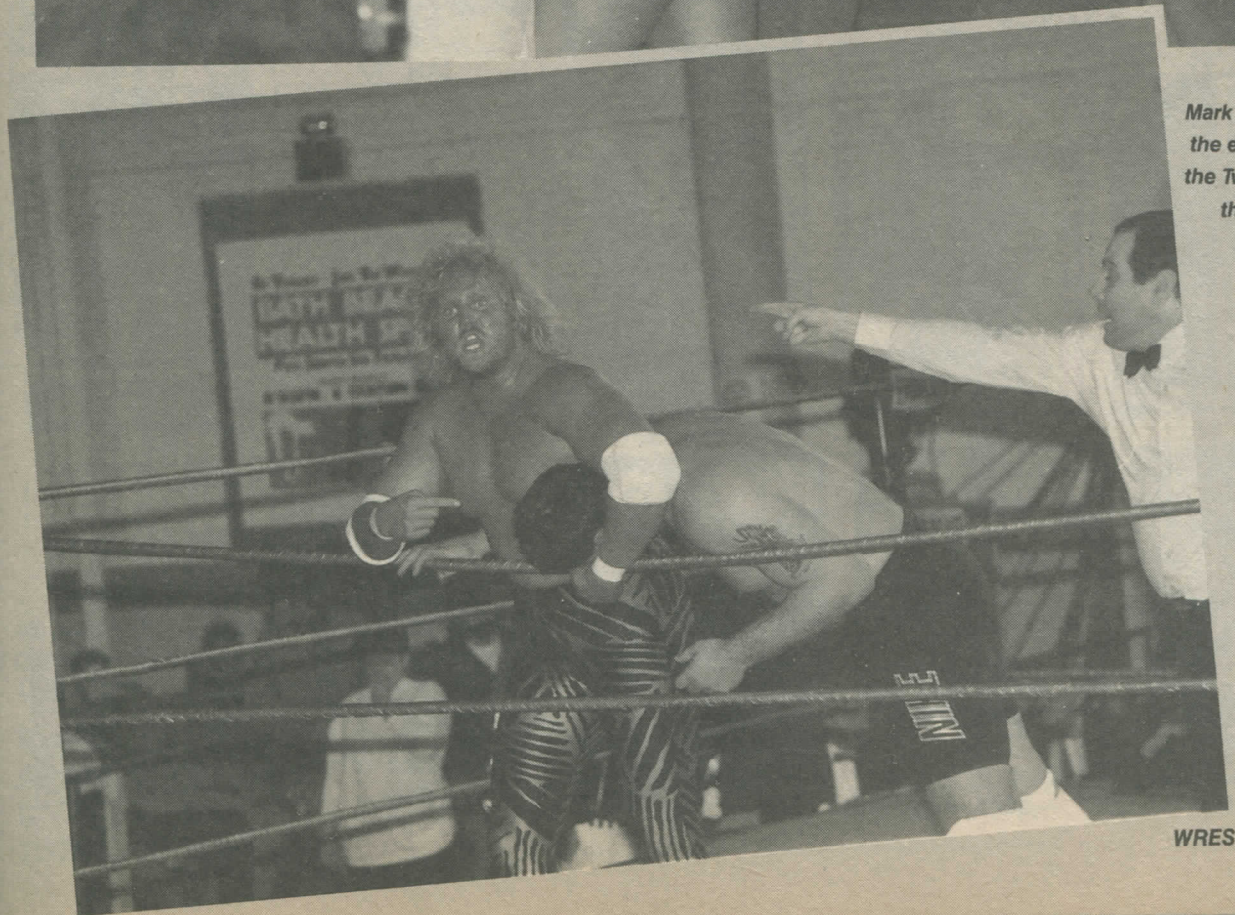
Referees, Danny Thomas and George Pinneroff confer before the night's activities.



Veteran of mat wars, Porkchop Cash.

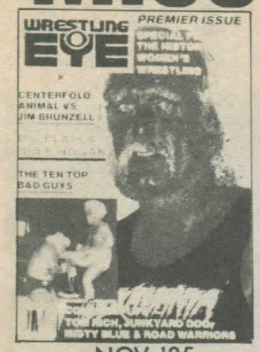
ARS GALLERY

"Mr. Obnoxious" Hubie Marx, along with Heartthrob Tommy Norton, and Diesel Don stir up trouble!



Mark Adams rakes the eyes of one of the Twin Towers in the Big Apple!

MISS LAST MONTH'S ACTION?



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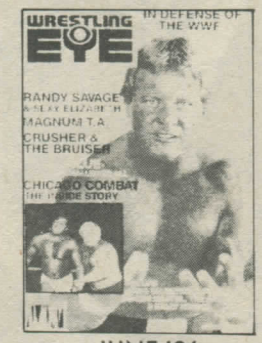

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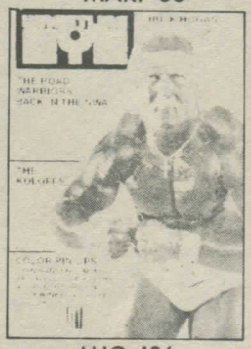

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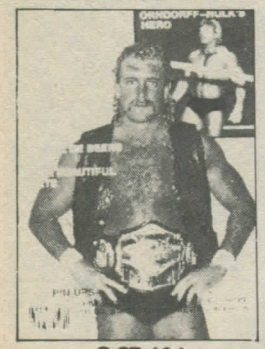

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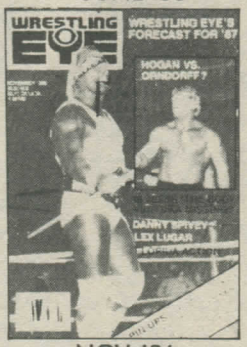

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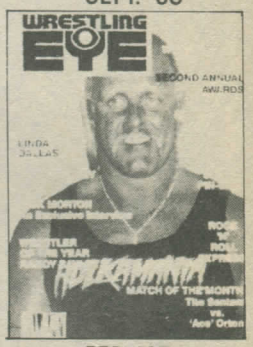

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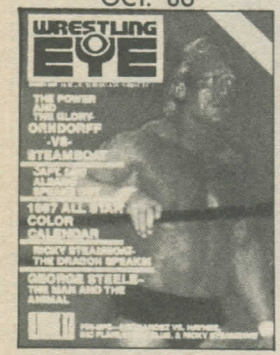

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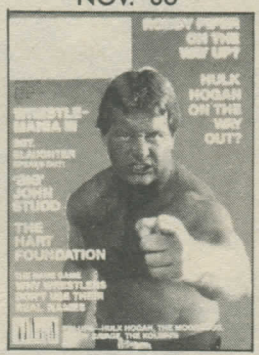

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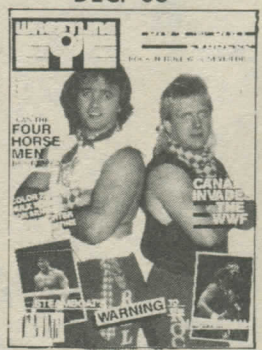

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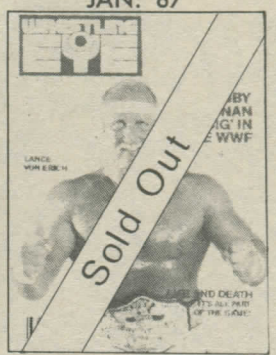

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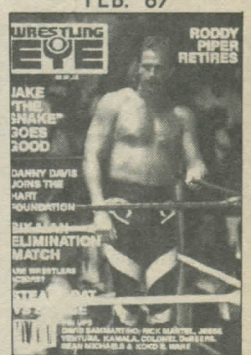

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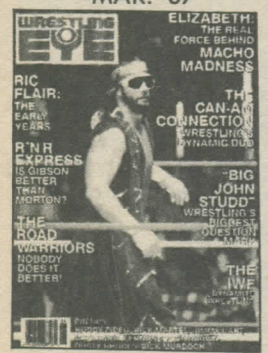

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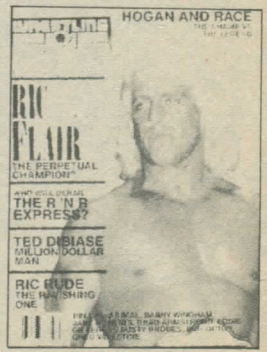

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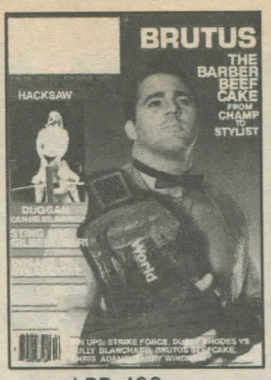

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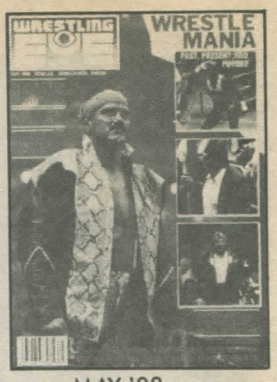

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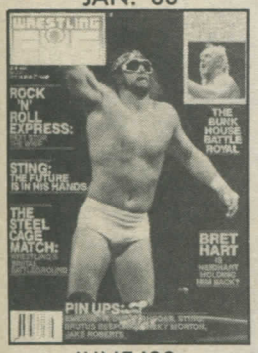

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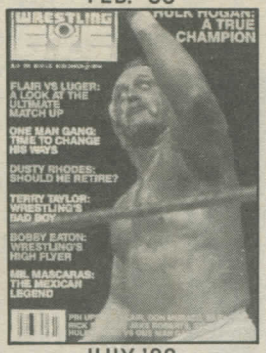

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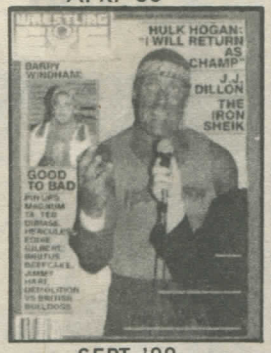

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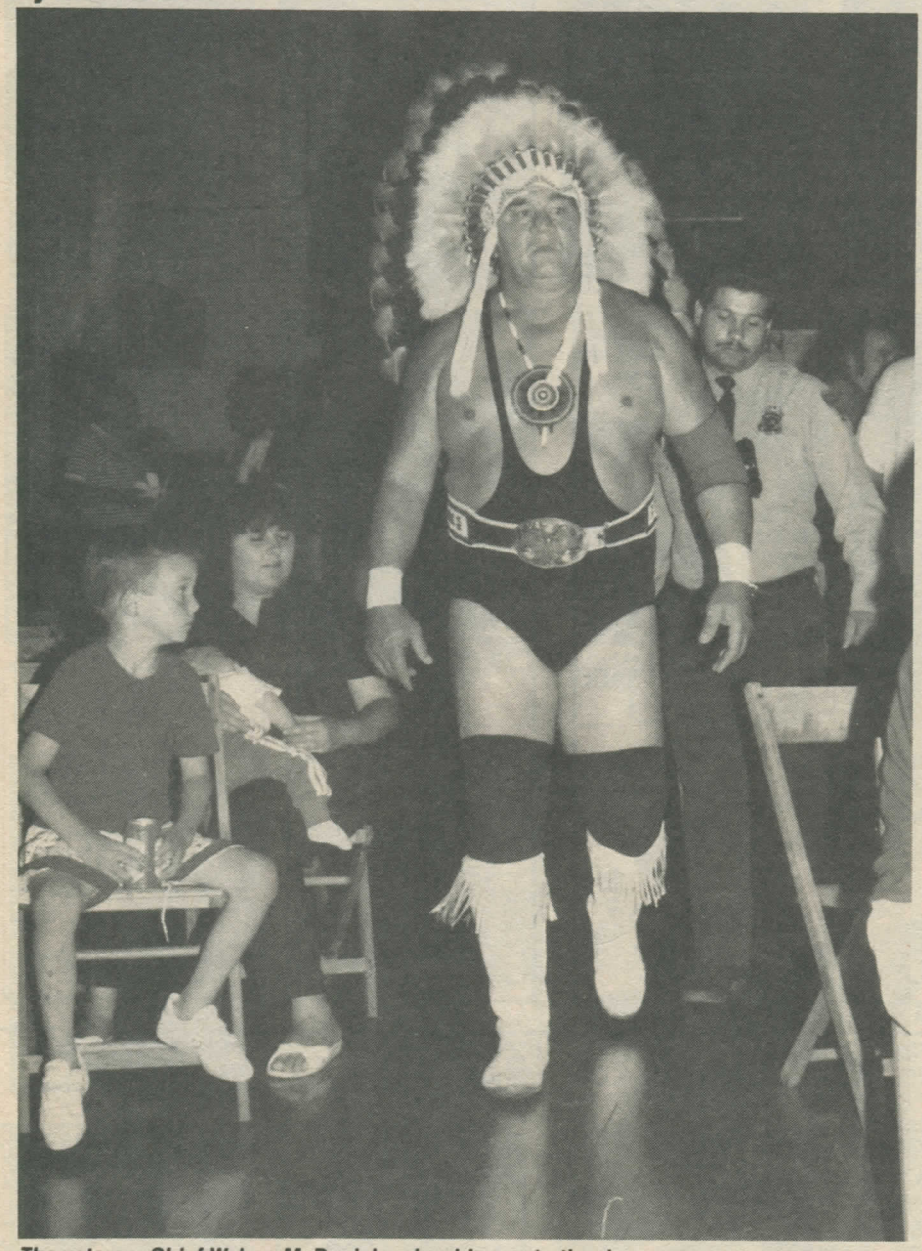
WAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

Wahoo McDaniel vs. Manny Fernandez

By Don Liable



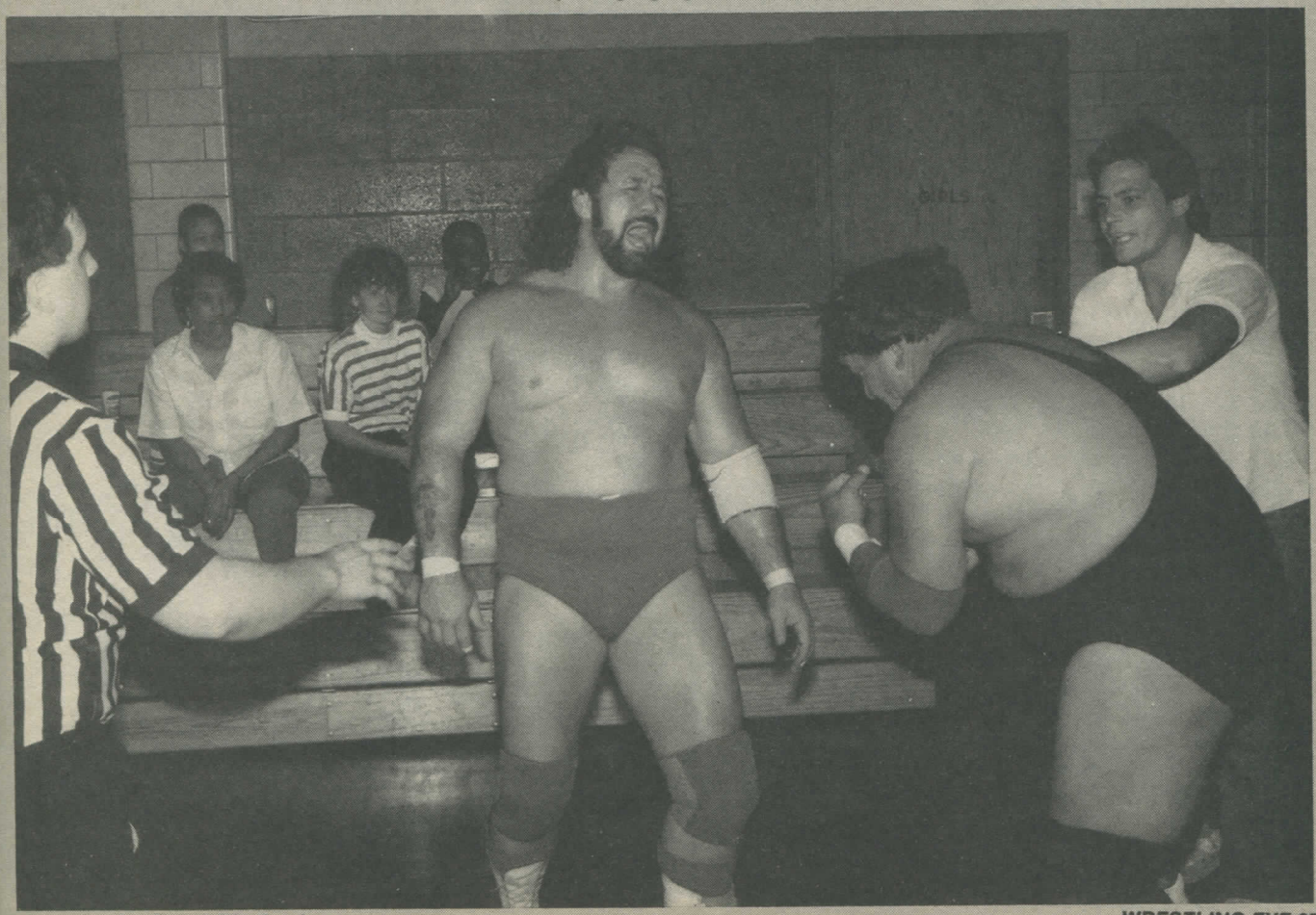
The veteran, Chief Wahoo McDaniel makes his way to the ring.

Whoever thought that two athletes could have so much anger built up between them? There have been feuds through the years, at the time labeled as the baddest and the bloodiest. Abdullah the Butcher and the late "Bruiser" Brody had their share of ring wildness. Back in the early 1970's, West Coast fans witnessed many chair throwing, head biting brawls between Fred Blassie and John "The Golden Greek" Tolos. No matter what horror stories came about after battles involving those grapplers and others known for their unorthodox behavior in between the ropes, their confrontations measure up as a mere disagreement between two hotheaded individuals, when comparing the actions now taking place in the American Wrestling Association between Chief Wahoo McDaniel and Manny "The Raging Bull" Fernandez. By the accounts of fans traveling great distances and paying above face value for tickets to see for themselves up close the exchange of holds between the two AWA headliners, the matches will surely go down in pro wrestling's annals as some of the most vicious and action packed.

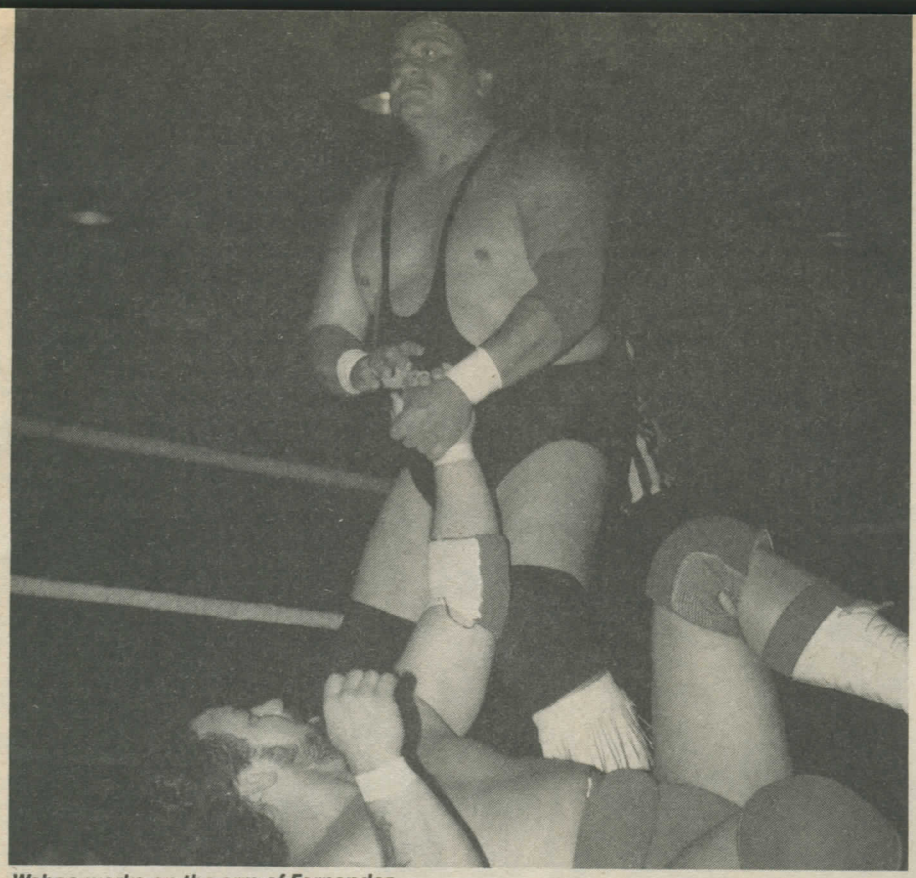
Wahoo and "The Raging Bull" have been taking their frustrations out on each other for over a year. After the performance they turned in this past December on the SuperClash III program in Chicago, Illinois, a majority of ring veterans and media personnel were convinced the bloodshed had finally ended. How wrong they were. The Indian strap match the combatants agreed to only added fuel to the fire. Dragging each other around the ring's four corners with the thick leather strap choking their throats caused even the strongest stomachs to become a bit unsettled, as several ringsiders turned their faces from the unsightly scene.

The Mecca Arena in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was where they clashed next. Pitted inside of a steel cage, as expected, both McDaniel and Fernandez slugged it out until they could no longer stand. On several occasions Fernandez was perched on top of the fifteen foot high cage wall, with one leg over and ready to begin what he assumed to be a victorious climb down, but boy, was he wrong! Wahoo tugged the left leg of his opponent with a powerful tug and in an instant Fernandez toppled down on to the can-

Chief Wahoo, sporting a gorgeous headdress.



Both men battle outside the ring.



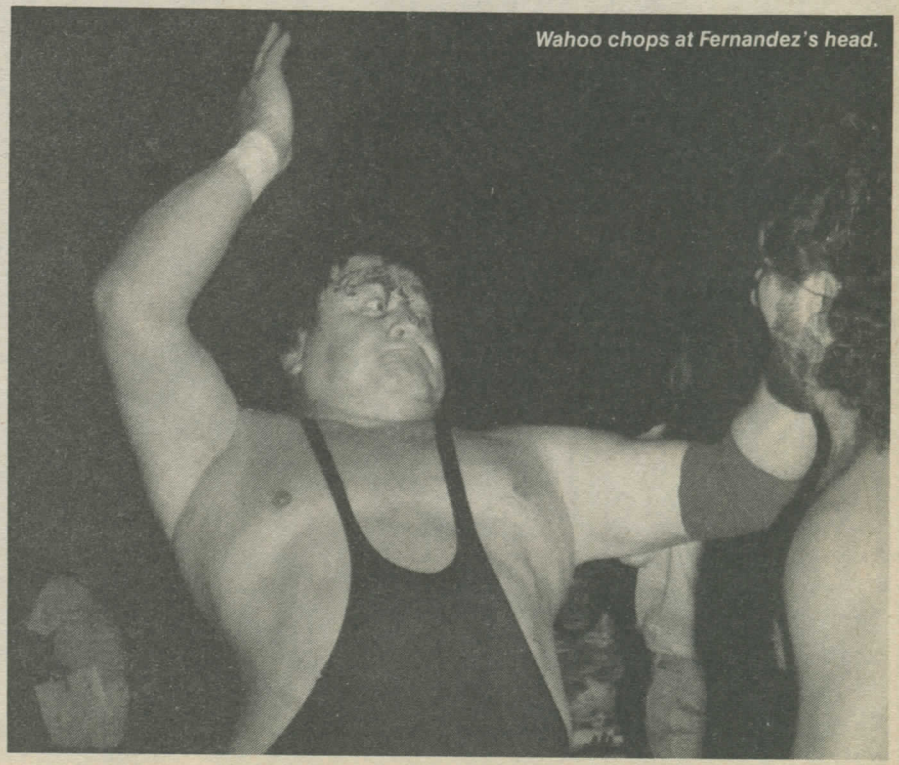
Wahoo works on the arm of Fernandez.

vas, landing squarely on his back. For slightly more than twenty minutes, they clawed, scratched, dropkicked and bodyslammed each other. "Those guys were running on auxiliary power after the first five minutes of the match. They climbed up and down the cage and exchanged elbow and forearm smashes at such a rapid pace early on, I figured they would have both collapsed from exhaustion. Wahoo did get through the cage door first. He won the battle but the war rolls on," AWA Television Champion Greg Gagne said.

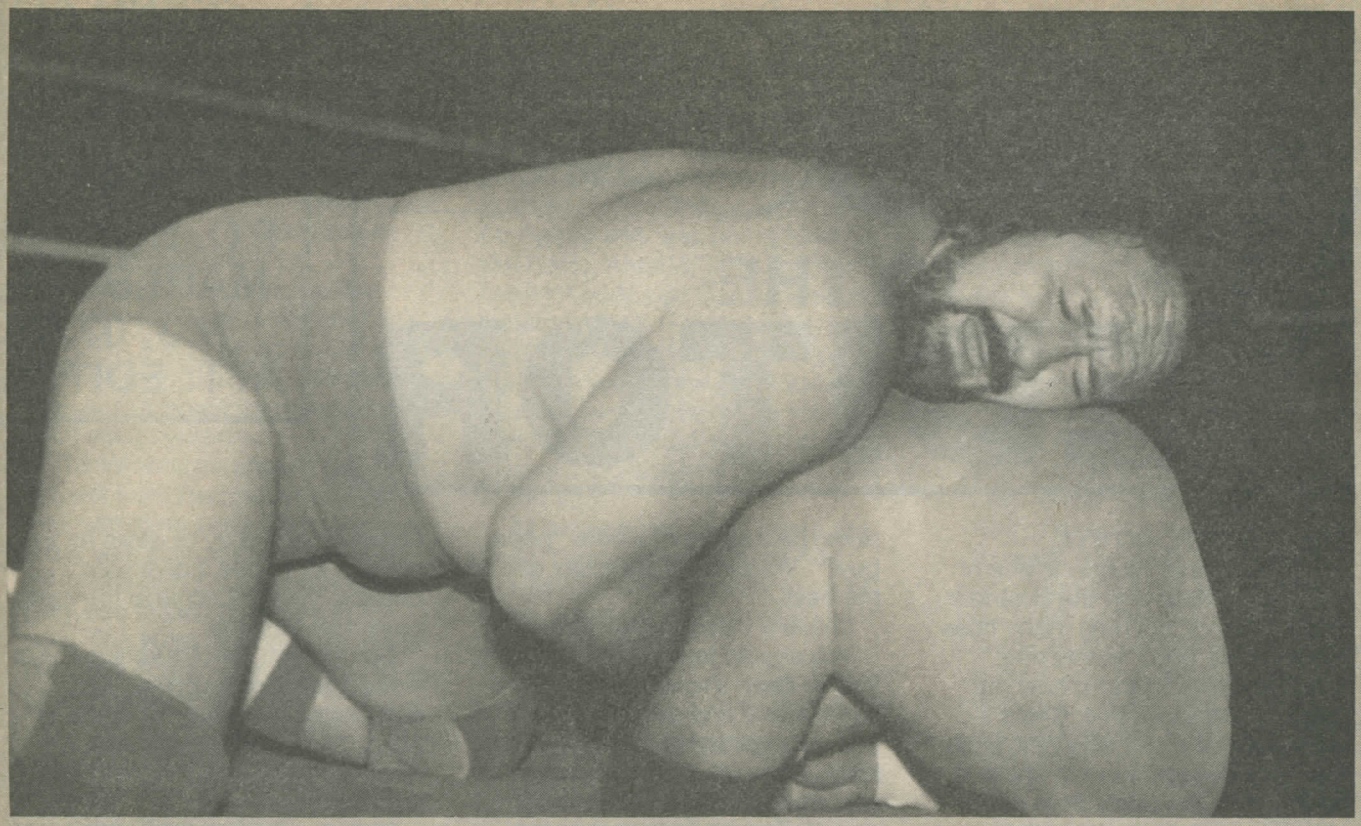
An Indian death match between McDaniel and Fernandez was set in Memphis, Tennessee's Mid-South Coliseum. You guessed it, all hell broke loose. This time nearly a half dozen wrestlers were summoned from the dressing room by promoters to separate the two participants, after Referee Frank Morrell disqualified them. Sounds strange, disqualifying wrestlers in a death match? He did so, not only for the safety of the two wrestlers, but also for the officials and fans located close to the action as well. Living up to his "Raging Bull" billing, Fernandez grabbed the iron bell from the timekeeper and sent it airborne in Wahoo's direction. After ducking out of its path, the popular Indian flung a chair at his challenger. It connected and split Fernandez's nose wide open. Cut from the bridge of his nose to under his left eye, Fernandez went berserk. Charging the officials table, those occupying the area evacuated quickly as he attempted to lift it up This was the final antic the referee would stand for. Officially halting the match, once again there was no clear cut victor.

It's not as if Manny Fernandez and Wahoo McDaniel all of a sudden decided to grab for each other's throats when signing on with the AWA. Far from it. The ill will between the two dated back to their days in the National Wrestling Alliance not too long ago. Many people feel they followed each other to the AWA to finish what was started elsewhere. The turmoil looming between them is strange. As hard as it may be to believe, at one time they were close friends and frequent tag partners. The tide turned between the two when Manny took a substantial pay-off from Paul Jones, then proceeded to beat former tag partner Jimmy Valiant over the head with the briefcase full of loot and paired up with "Ravishing" Rick Rude. Fernandez and Rude, managed by Jones, captured the NWA Tag Team Championship from the Rock 'N Roll Express in Atlanta, Georgia.

Seemingly sitting on top of the wrestling game with the gold belt around his waist, Fernandez wouldn't stop throwing challenges to his former associate. The incident that put McDaniel on the war path was when Fernandez humiliated him by plucking and destroying his ceremonial headdress made by his grandfather. Since that outburst by "The Raging Bull," the two men have been after one another like cats and dogs.



Wahoo chops at Fernandez's head.



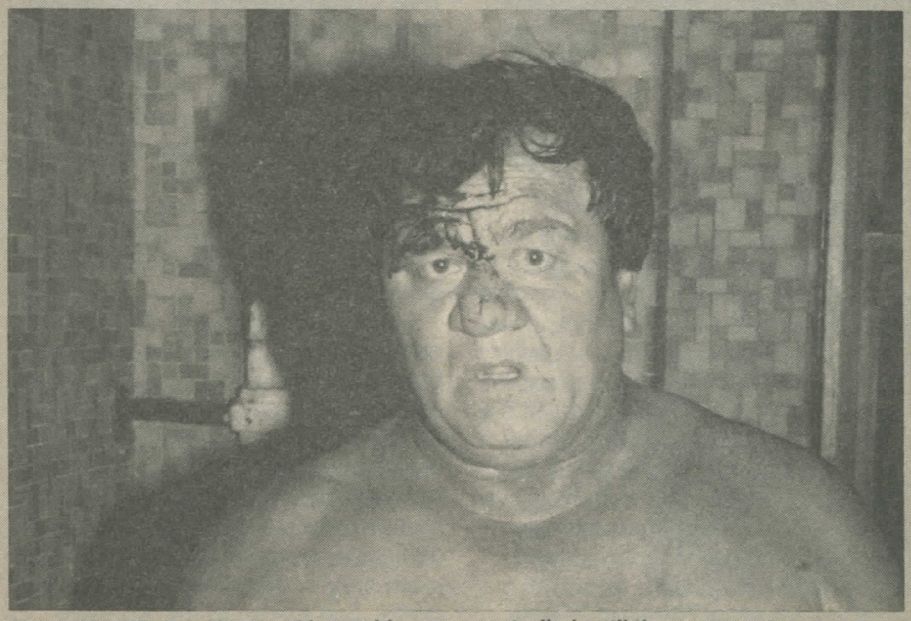
Manny takes the Chief down to the mat.

Their past backgrounds have proven to be a valuable asset in being able to endure the punishment dished out during their matches. Wahoo enjoyed a decorative collegiate tenure in both football and wrestling at the University of Oklahoma. Later, he would find success on the pro grid iron playing for both the New York Jets and Miami Dolphins. Manny too played football. Being able to absorb pain was something they were well acquainted and becoming immune to, by the time they entered the pro wrestling game.

"When they get in the ring, it's difficult to predict a winner. Basically it comes down to Manny's "Flying Burrito" body block against Wahoo's powerful tomahawk chops. To get the upper hand on the situation, Manny's taking up managing, probably to increase his odds even more at finally eliminating Wahoo. Wayne "The Train" Bloom is his first protege and has many of the same traits, especially that sadistic mean streak Manny possesses. Just when the situation looks bleak for Wahoo, he'll come up with a new trick. He's a wise man; my money's on him," former Olympian and current AWA Star Ken Patera said.

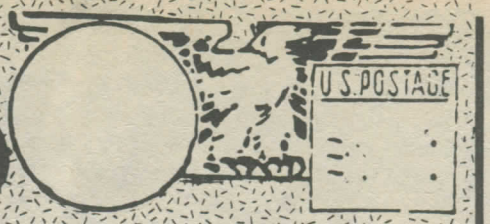
To further prove that both have tunnelvision, as far as how determined they are to rid the sport of one another, the recent AWA battle royal held to determine the new world champ, which Larry Zybyszko won, is a perfect example. Instead of concentrating on the title at stake, they focused their actions on each other. Both Manny and Wahoo were eliminated by being flipped over the top rope. Once outside the ring, determined to carry on their battle, Referee Gary DeRusha ignored their violence, knowing full well that separating them would take a monumental effort.

Staying in peak physical condition and the desire to get another crack at the new AWA champion motivates them to levels of performance that at times even surprises them. Just when you thought you have seen the last of the Fernandez-McDaniel feud, guess again. They are fighting for their professional lives and disappointing no one along the way.



Wahoo bloodied and battered keeps his anger controlled until the next evening

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think Wendi Richter is one of the best wrestlers in the business today! Wendi has held many titles such as the WWF ladies title, WCCW ladies title and now the NWA ladies world title. She's a powerhouse and a scientific wrestler. She doesn't need to cheat to keep a title like Misty Blue does. She can match up strength to Madusa Miceli and doesn't need loaded arm pads. I don't know why she left the WWF. She had a spot on Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n Wrestling show and was almost as popular as Hogan himself. If she went back to the WWF she would toss around and pin the current champ Rockin' Robin easily. I've been a fan of Richter since she whipped Moolah for the WWF title. That proves she's one of the best because Moolah held the title for three decades and Richter still pinned her on a number of occasions. Please continue to run great color pin ups of her like the one you had in the calendar of the March '89 issue.

Dan Mathis
Petaluma, Ca

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I read your magazine every month, and I feel that it's one of the best goin' today, although I would like to see more on my favorite "Wildfire" Tommy Rich and not so much on that idiot Jerry Lawler. See, Tommy is one of the greatest rasslin' talents in the world. He's a former NWA world champ (sadly, only for a week but it was the best week the NWA ever had). Now how many rasslers can honestly say that they've ever held the NWA word title? Not many. Although he's a so-called "bad guy" (but what rassler doesn't break the rules) he's still my favorite "good guy." "Wildfire" is definitely one of the best.

I have a message for Tommy:

You should leave the CWA, you've been there too long. Go somewhere and get the respect you deserve so much like the NWA. After all, you never know, you could get the world title. In closin', Tommy Rich makes me very proud to be a native born Southerner.

Beth B.
Miami, Fla

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I read your magazine regularly and I must say that I'm impressed. I loved the interview with Big John Studd in the March issue in which he claimed that Hulk Hogan is the best the world and Vince McMahon is the greatest wrestling promoter. I agree with him 100%. Hulk and Vince are the ones who made this great sport catch the eyes of millions and get the recognition it truly deserves.

Andy Dutler
West Des Moines, Ia

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I'm writing in response to an article in your April 1989 issue "Shawn Michaels. Should He Go Solo?"

I love your magazine and the coverage that you've been giving the Rockers but I don't see how you can print an article like that!!!! There isn't any doubt in my mind that Shawn could win any title he went after as a singles wrestler, but he has achieved his greatest success as one half of the greatest tag team ever to grace the squared circle. Just because the Rockers haven't won a title for a while doesn't mean they're down for the count. I think that if given the chance, they will achieve the greatness they deserve.

Don't count the Rockers out yet —they're full of surprises. They don't know the meaning of the word "quit" and they'll prove it when they become the WWF tag team champs.

Shawn *will* hold a title again—but it will be as one half of the greatest duo since Adam and Eve —the ROCKERS!! With or without titles Shawn and Marty will also be champions in my eyes. Good luck guys!!

Sonya Vangosen
Berkeley Springs, WV

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I just want to say that I like your magazine. I wanted to know if you can tell me where I can contact Kerry Von Erich. I'm one of his biggest fans. I have many pictures of him and was wondering if you could run one of him for me. Thanks a lot.

Rosemary Cruz
Waco, Tx

Editors Note: Write to Kerry and your favorites at: World Class Wrestling c/o Dallas Sportatorium, 1000 South Industrial Blvd., Dallas, Tx 75207.

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am a wrestling fan and I have been for years but wrestling doesn't come that frequently to Des Moines, Iowa. If we're lucky, the WWF comes every six months.

I would like to see the WWF fire Bobby "the Brain" Heenan and get Gorilla Monsoon a new cohost. That weasel is just no good and what he did to Terry Taylor was uncalled for. He is just plain trouble

and I hope he gets the boot real soon. Also, I just want to tell Gorilla Monsoon that he does a good job on prime time and you do a good job with WRESTLING EYE. Keep up the good work.

Karen Ayala
Des Moines, Ia

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think your magazine is the greatest and there is no other to top it. I'm a supporting fan of BARRY and KENDALL WINDHAM. I would like to see them together in a full color centerfold.

The Windhams should get more respect from their fans because of their wrestling ability. The fact that Barry was able to hold the prestigious title of US Champion for so long also makes him hard to ignore. The NWA is #1 and so is the WRESTLING EYE magazine. Keep up the good work!

Bobby J. Witt
Eden, NC

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

First of all, I would like to say that you have a great magazine. My favorite sections are Phantom of the Ring and Fan Club Column. I'm a big fan of wrestling and my favorite wrestlers are Hulk Hogan and the Fabulous Rougeau Brothers. I think Hulk Hogan will always be the greatest champ of wrestling in the world and nobody will be able to make us forget him.

For the Rougeau Brothers, I think they could be the #1 tag team if they get rid of Jimmy Hart. They do not need any manager to be the best! They can be the tag team of the 90s if they return to the good corner and without a manager like Hart. I hope they change for good very soon but I love them even if they're bad. They have great style and a lot of experience in wrestling. Here in Quebec they won the tag team title and they could do the same in the WWF. They're not unbeatable but they're great together.

I would like to read about them in your magazine. Send kisses to Jacques and Raymond.

The Fabulous Rougeaus #1 Fan.,
Quebec, Canada

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Whoever wrote the article "Elizabeth, the Force Behind the Macho Man" sure knows his business. Elizabeth sure is one beautiful lady. There are also two other beautiful girls in wrestling today, Jake Roberts' wife Cheryl and Jimmy Garvin's wife Precious. I have seen these three ladies put personal danger behind them to try and help their men. Honky Tonk pushed Liz to the floor so he could hit Randy who was being held by the Harts. Another time she got between Randy and Honky Tonk and wouldn't move.

Cheryl Roberts showed Rick Rude he wasn't the great lover he thought he was. Precious tried to keep Sullivan from breaking Jimmy Garvin's leg and she got knocked to the floor.

All anyone has to do is see the looks these girls give their husbands to know what they think of them. I wonder if the men know it and appreciate it.

Ray Powers
S. New Berlin, NY

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

After seeing the Blue Blazer live last year in the Oakland Coliseum (my favorite arena) I've been trying to find out who he was. Then, I saw Owen Hart executing a Boston crab on Hiro Hase to win the IWGP Jr. Heavyweight championship in Japan. After thinking the Blue Blazer was Chris Adams, then Tim Horner I knew that I had been wrong. The Blue Blazer was none other than Owen Hart. Does this possibly mean that Owen and Bret may form a new tag team and Jim Neidhart could be out?

Also, I would like to comment on the article on Hulk Hogan that appeared in the Feb '89 issue. It was the best article on Hulk Hogan that I've read since I've been a fan of the Hulkster's. The reason I watch wrestling is to watch Hulkamania run wild!

Kevin Lee Beard
Pittsburg, Ca

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I buy your magazine and I watch wrestling every Saturday and I just love it! But, there are a couple of people we could do without, namely Jesse Ventura, Rick Rude and Ted DiBiase. They just make me sick to my stomach. Everytime they come on I just want to run out of the room. Also the WWF should think about getting rid of Brother Love. He also rates pretty high on my hate list.

L. Davis
Avondale, Pa

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I'm so glad that Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart left that "Mouth" Jimmy Hart. These two excellent wrestlers certainly didn't need his influence. I'm even gladder that Ric Flair lost his belt. That cheating egomaniac doesn't deserve to be champ and I hope he never gets another chance at the belt! Barry Windham is a good wrestler but Lex Luger is better. Ricky Steamboat however, is the best and he certainly proved it.

Now, on to the AWA. Badd Company are just showing everyone what "badd" losers they will be. Their cheating ways make me sick! I'm really glad that Jerry Lawler was stripped of his belt also. He was really acting like an idiot. Maybe all these tricksters will grow up soon and be real men like Hercules or Kerry Von Erich. Great magazine! Keep up the good work!

Sabrina C.
Reno, Nv

Wendi Richter is #1 in the eyes of Dan Mathis.

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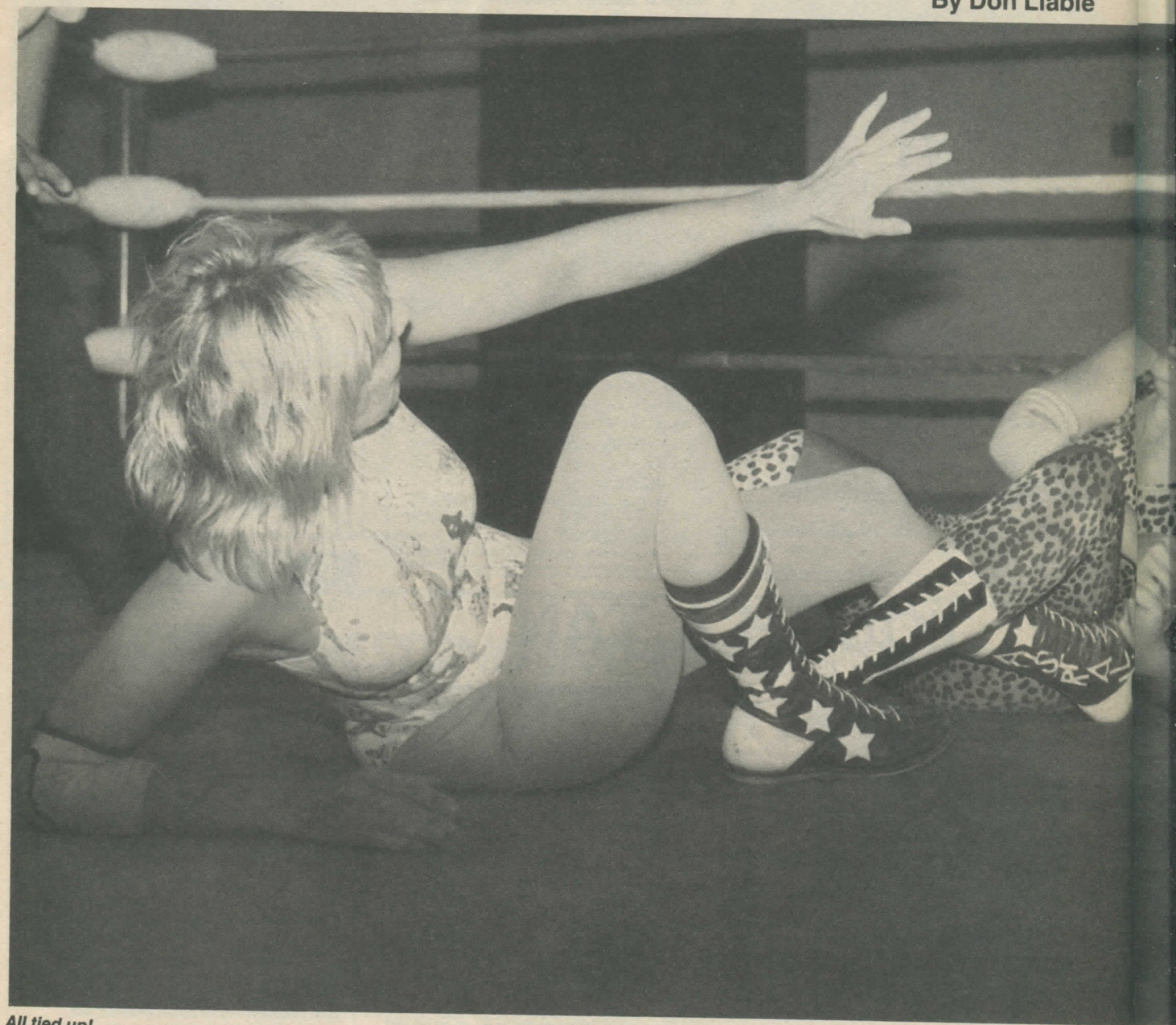
AUSTRALIA'S FAVORITE EXPORT

SUSAN SEXTON

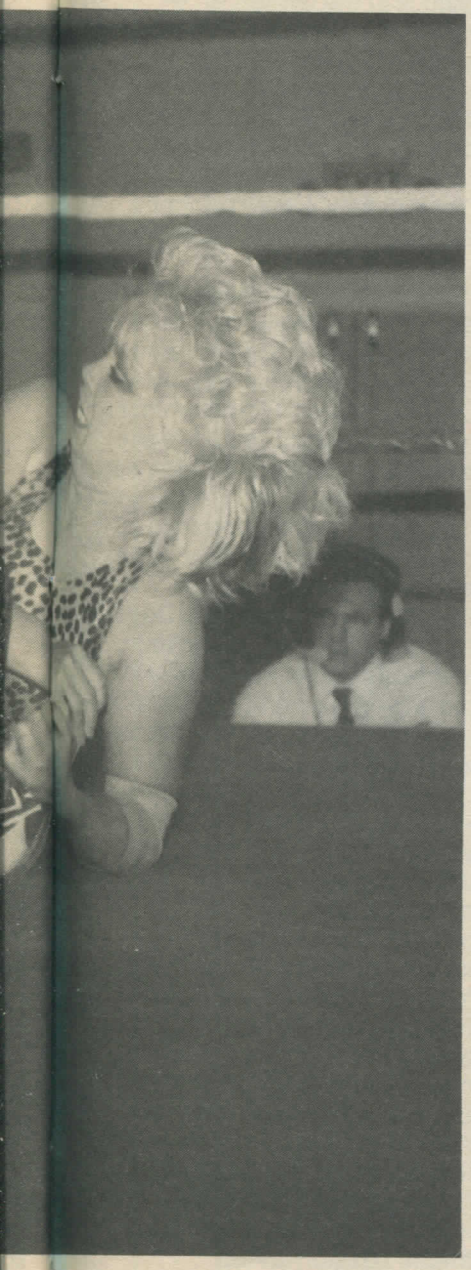
By Don Liable



All tied up!

Her career choice necessitated her to relocate to another continent from her native Australia and after a year of rigorous training on the mats, you won't hear any complaints from Susan Sexton on the sacrifices she endured in becoming a professional wrestler. The 5'5" 120 lb. Aussie has been one of the dominant forces worldwide competing in the pro ranks for the past sixteen years. Sexton is an athlete, like her male counterparts, obsessed with a mission. Capturing the world championship title and returning to her homeland as "Queen of the Ring" motivates Susan Sexton to not only remain competitive but to always be a step ahead of the rest of the womens wrestling pack.

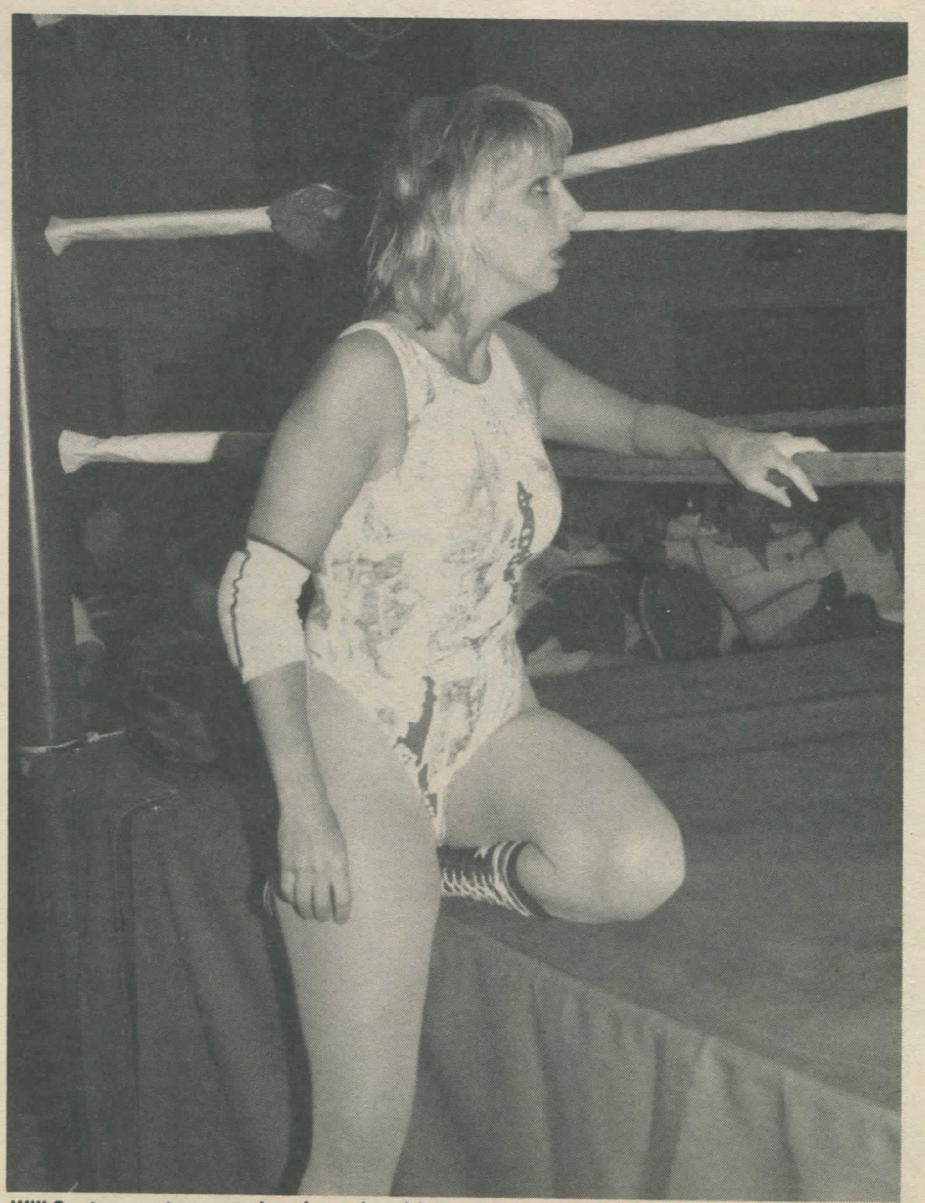
You can check the record books promoters in Australia use when selecting their talent for the wrestling season. Susan Sexton is at the top of all their lists. Not only did Susan soundly defeat challengers from her own country, but toppled all the wrestling imports matched up against her. Sexton is one of a very few competitors, male or female, in the sport of wrestling that without question fits the billing as



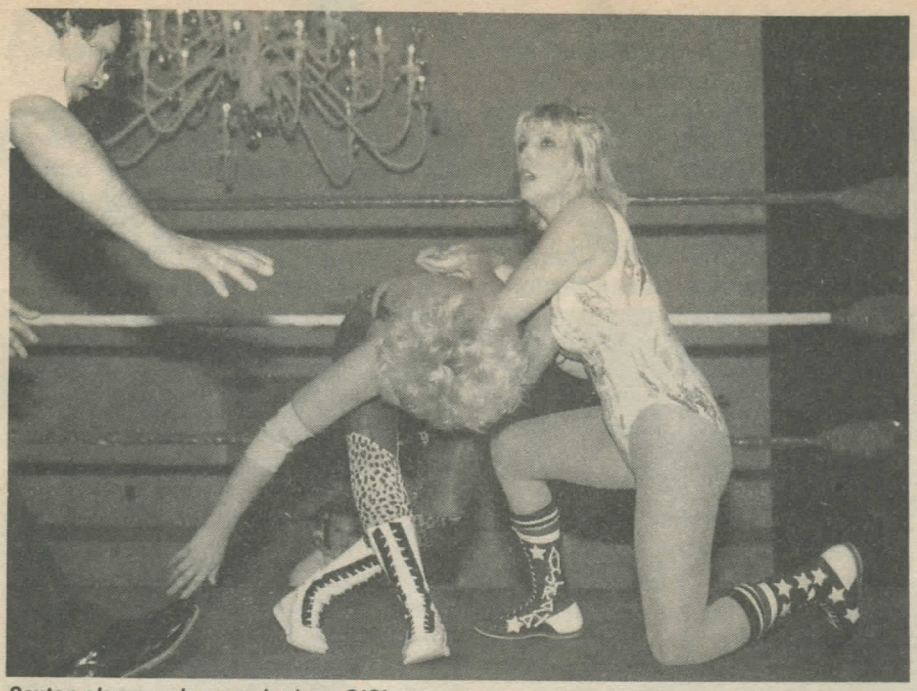
an international superstar. Judy Martin and Velvet McIntyre are two of the finest Americans to have fallen by the wayside of Sexton when touring Australia and New Zealand. While appearing in Mexico City, Mexico, Martha Villalobos, the newest female sensation in that nation, received a pinning defeat at the hands of the seasoned veteran Sexton. When invited to the Orient, Susan scored an impressive victory, by way of submission over Itzuki Yamazaki in Hokata, Japan. Of all the parts of the world she has seen ring duty, without hesitation Susan Sexton has experienced her greatest triumphs in America.

Thanks to former World Champion Mildred Burke, Susan Sexton is in the States thrilling fans with her exciting brand of wrestling style. When Burke brought Sexton to California, she taught the Aussie new holds and maneuvers to add to her already explosive ring repertoire. With Burke's brilliance, Susan Sexton became an even more dangerously skilled wrestler.

The one incident that made Sexton a bonafide celebrity, to the point that her face and name were known even by non wrestling fans was when she appeared on THE MIKE DOUGLAS television show and wrestled singer Sonny Bono. Although going through the motions of the leg locks and airplane spin were clearly done in jest, the message of Sexton being an outstanding athlete came through quite clearly. "After I did that show, so many people who saw it stopped me in stores and on the streets and asked if I really was a wrestler or a model just hired to tangle up with Mr. Bono. There is a misconception amongst both sexes that women wrestlers are far from being feminine and aren't well schooled in their personal grooming. What nonsense. When I climb into the ring, I don't think of myself as a woman or man, but as a wrestler. It's all business. When I leave the arenas, I'm as much a lady as any homemaker or wife," Sexton stated before a match in Mocks-



Will Sexton capture a major championship soon?



Sexton clamps a hammerlock on O'Sheena.

ville, North Carolina.

The Magnificent Mimi, a highly touted rookie trained by England's Billy Robinson, is Susan's top priority these days. There is nothing more that Sexton can do in her quest for a return match with Madusa Miceli. Last Spring, in Las Vegas, Nevada, Susan and Madusa wrestled to a twenty minute time limit draw. In Sexton's hope of securing a second go around with the champ members of the AWA title committee stated the winner between a match pitting Sexton and Mimi, the top two contenders for Madusa's diamond studded strap, would be deemed the number one challenger. Thus far, after two encounters between Sexton and Mimi, one being televised nationally on the ESPN Cable Network, no clear cut victor has emerged. One match ended in a disqualification on Mimi's behalf and their second battle ended with both participants getting counted out by the referee.

"In all sincerity, Susan Sexton is one of the best all around athletes to ever step in the ring. With over fifty years in the sport, let me say, I've seen my share of the great ones. Cora Combs, Mildred Burke, Mary Jane Mull, there's at least a dozen ladies whom I would classify as hall of famers. When she's finally finished competing, Susan Sexton will be associated with the greats. Being from Australia, I can tell you, Susan's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. She's one of the most popular figures in Australia," commented former standout wrestler "Kangaroo" Al Costello.

Susan Sexton's ring attack is straight ahead, full speed. Her brand of mat style basically consists of an aerial assault. You'll never get bored watching Sexton teach her opponents a lesson, no sir. There are a lot of flying headbutts and leaping dropkicks of the ring posts in Sexton's matches. During a match in Tampa, Florida against Katty Sinclair, Susan Sexton dislocated her opponent's clavicle bone.

There is one regret in Sexton's career, however, there is a possibility that the situation will be rectified. The legendary Fabulous Moolah is the one person Susan wants to square off against but between booking schedules and travel constraints, the two women haven't been available in the same city at the same time. Of course, Moolah is in the twilight of her wrestling days and some critics may claim that the matchup would be a bit outdated on Moolah's behalf. Either way, with the amount of pride and determination each wrestler possesses, the fans would get their money's worth of thrills, when and if the contract can be signed.

Misty Blue, the recognized East Coast Womans Wrestling Champion, is also high on the list of targets Susan Sexton has zeroed in on. With all the press and fan notoriety Blue receives, Sexton is anxious to learn if Misty is all hype and no talent. Susan Sexton, with all to her credit, is herself harrassed by fellow wrestlers looking to make a name for themselves. Linda Dallas, Kat Leroux and Mad Dog Debbie have all been giving their supreme efforts on the canvas in hopes of scoring an upset and putting them in the championship picture and knocking Sexton out of the scene. Thus far, the threesome have dished out gallant efforts but have come up second best. One match at a time, that's how Sexton approaches her craft. Total concentration and dedication on the most important match, the one coming up, is what Susan Sexton attributes her good fortunes in wrestling. "You can't plan for tomorrow without taking care of today, first. I look upon each opponent as the best possible competition available and go after her as if the whole world is watching. To be the best requires a total commitment," Sexton stated.

Professional wrestling continues to be a more enjoyable form of athletic entertainment due to the contributions of Australia's Susan Sexton. She's as tough as she is beautiful, Susan Sexton redefined the role of women in sport by knowing when not to be too much a lady, especially in the ring.

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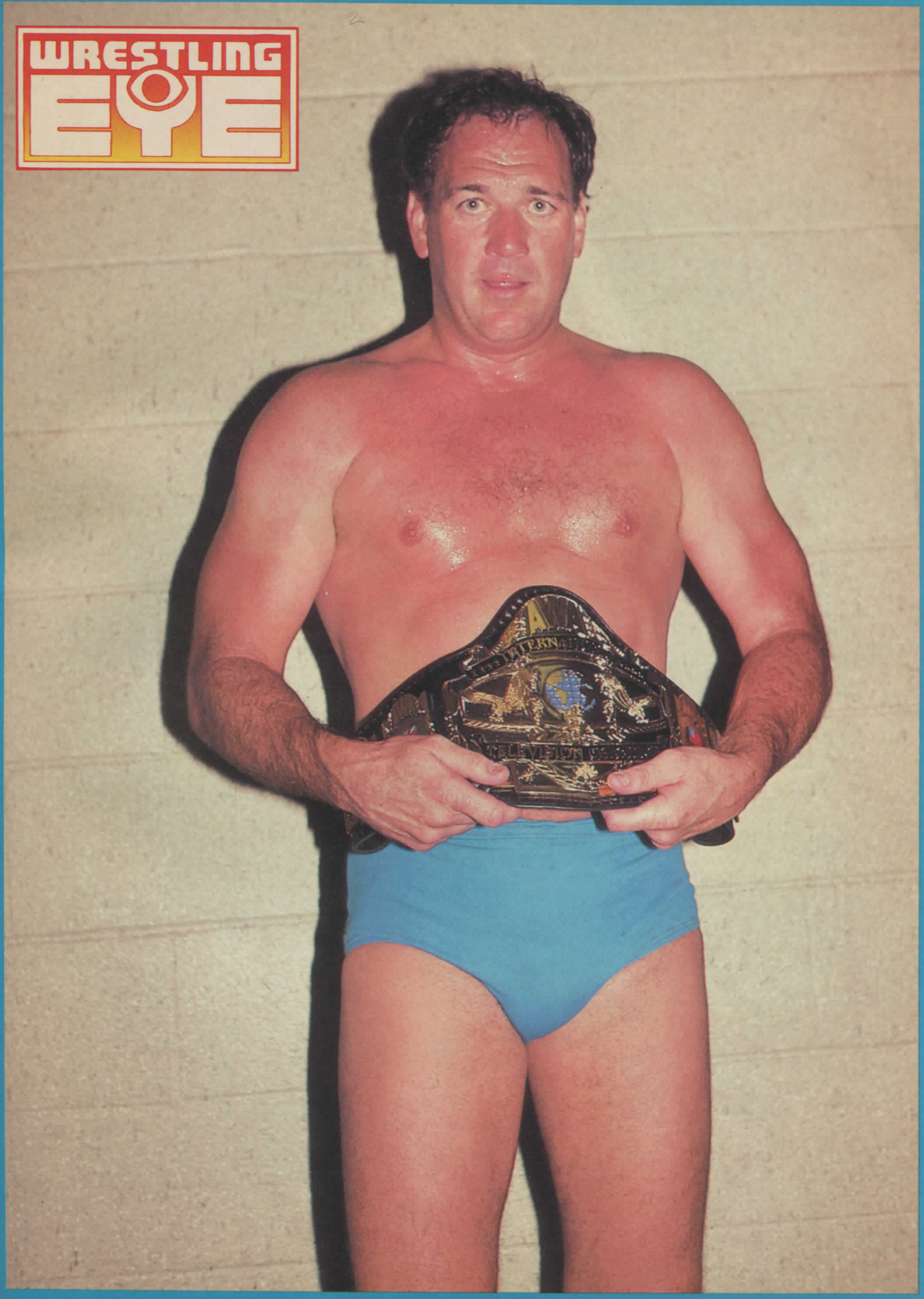

RICKY MORTON

HEIDI LEE MORGAN

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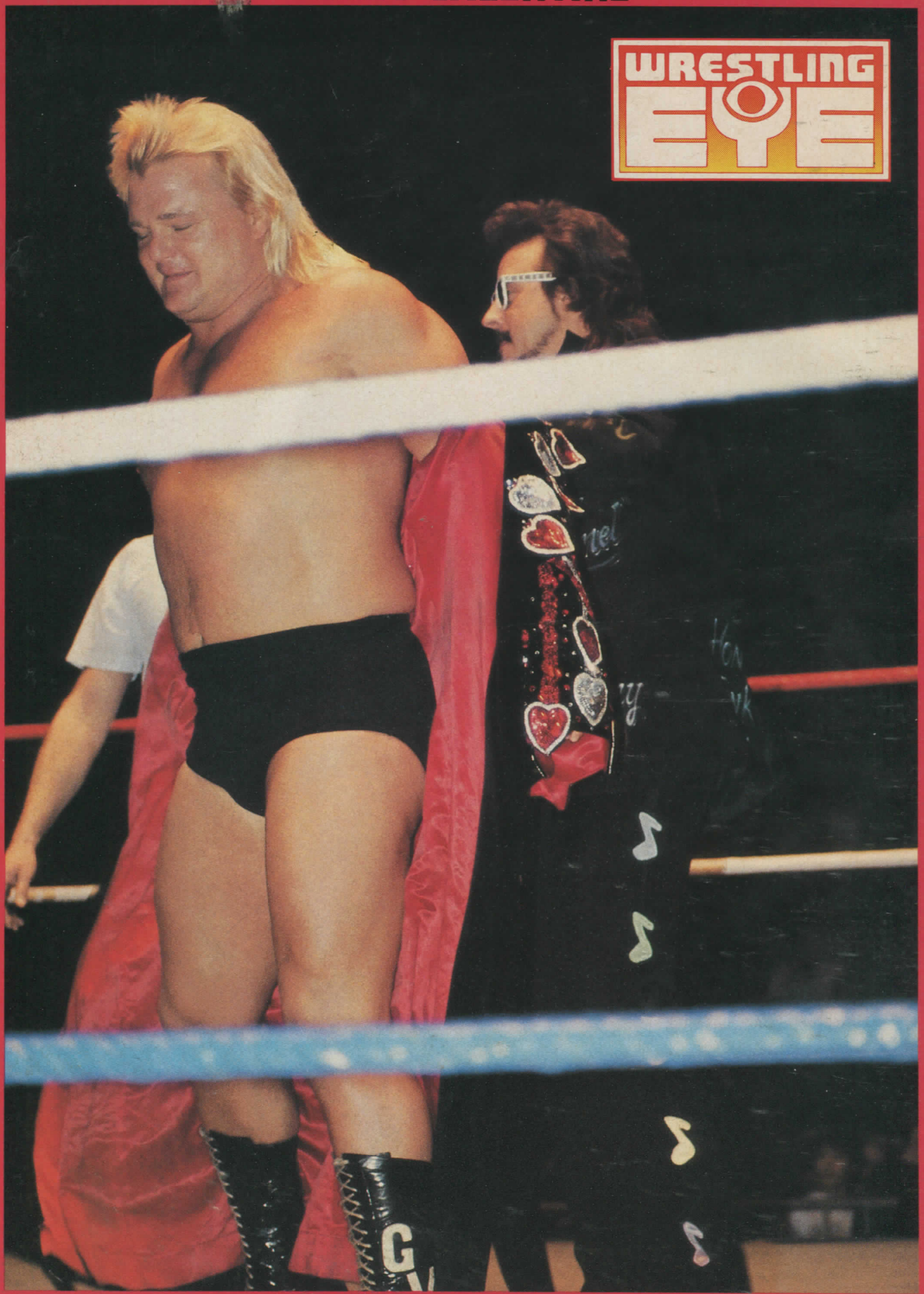

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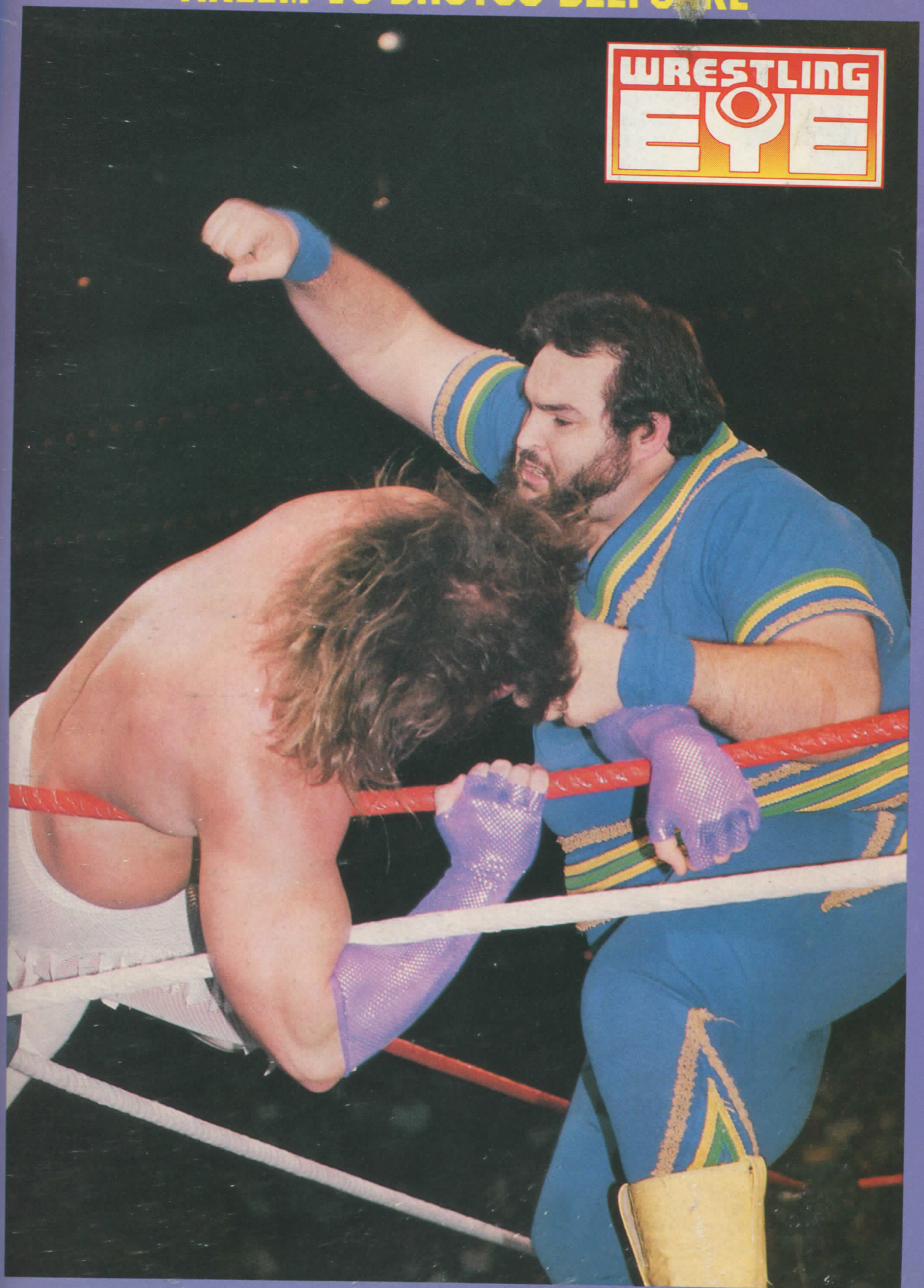
AKEEM VS BRUTUS BEEFCAKE



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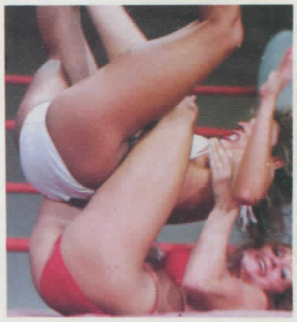

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